

# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## High Court rules for Reform convert

### Peretz hedges on threat to quit

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz appeared to be making a last-ditch effort last night to avoid resigning in the wake of yesterday's High Court of Justice ruling that he must register Reform convert Shoshana Miller as a Jew.

In a statement issued by his ministry, Peretz said he was studying ways to avoid "possible mishaps" as a result of registering Reform converts as Jews.

The statement apparently referred to ministry claims that such registration could result in Reform converts — not regarded as Jews by the Orthodox — being married in Jewish ceremonies in Israel. Ministry officials have also spoken of what they termed the danger of Reform converts being buried in Jewish cemeteries.

An aide to the minister said he made the statement after consulting with senior legal advisers in the ministry. Peretz later met with Rabbi Eliezer Schach, his party's leading rabbinical mentor, but details of the meeting were not divulged last night.

Peretz said in a TV interview a few weeks ago that if the court ruled against him he would resign, rather than unqualifiedly register as Jews people he did not consider Jewish.

But Israel Radio last night quoted sources close to Peretz as saying he would not quit.

The Committee for the Solidarity of the Jewish People, a group backed by the Habad Hassidim which has been active in lobbying for a change in the "Who is a Jew" law, yesterday called on Peretz to quit.

Rabbi Yosef Shvirmer, a political aide to Peretz, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday: "It's not an *haredim* (ultra-Orthodox) who can tell him to resign, but only Rabbi Schach and our [Shas] Council of Sages." The council was due to meet within a few days, he said.

Leaders of Progressive Judaism in Israel were overjoyed yesterday by the court ruling. But they admitted they were afraid the decision would increase Orthodox pressures to push through legislation on the "Who is a Jew" issue.



A delighted Shoshana Miller after yesterday's High Court decision. (Isaac Harari)

A fearful Miller, whose case was first reported by *The Post* almost a year ago, told reporters outside the court yesterday that she was "very happy" with the decision. At a press conference organized by the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) after the court hearing, she added that now she would "settle down and begin arranging my life."

The decision of the Interior Ministry not to register as Jews Miller and other non-Orthodox converts who came on aliyah was a relatively new one, dating from when Peretz took office. Prior to that, such immigrants had been registered as Jews, but their files had included the information that their conversion had been non-Orthodox — and this was indicated by a code number that was part of their identity number.

In yesterday's decision, the court restricted itself to a relatively small issue: whether the ministry could add the word "convert" in parenthesis after the word "Jew" on the

identity cards of all converts. Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. It was only when Peretz suggested this move that the State Attorney's Office agreed to defend the Interior Ministry against Miller's petition to be registered as a Jew.

The proposal brought severe attacks on Peretz by Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox rabbis. They argued that the arrangement contravened halacha (religious law) by reminding converts of their non-Jewish origin, and by lumping what they termed Gentiles (non-Orthodox converts) together with Jews (Orthodox converts).

Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar and Justices Menahem Eilon and Miriam Ben-Porat concurred in the court ruling. They said that adding the word "convert" would create divisions in the Jewish people which would be contrary to the purpose for which the state was established. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

## North said to have briefed Nir on funds for Contras

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Lt. Col. Oliver North, the dismissed National Security Council operative, reportedly told U.S. Justice Department investigators 10 days ago that he had fully briefed Amiram Nir, an adviser to former premier Peres, on the secret funding of the Nicaraguan Contras.

Authoritative U.S. officials yesterday said that North named Nir, Peres's adviser on counter-terrorism, as his direct contact in the Israeli government. North said that Nir was told that one secret Swiss bank account in which Israel deposited money from the Iran arms shipments was controlled by the Contras.

North's comments, made last week during extensive questioning by senior Justice Department officials, including Attorney-General Edwin Meese, contradict Israel's assertions that it was unaware of the Contras link with the Iran arms shipments.

U.S. officials yesterday said they assumed that Nir had told his superiors in the Prime Minister's Office about the Contras link.

By HIRSH GOODMAN

Israeli officials have emphatically denied any prior knowledge of the transfer of funds to the Contras.

*The Jerusalem Post* has been assured by the highest possible sources that Israel "learned of the transfer of the funds to the Contras just hours before the news was made public by Attorney General Meese."

Two principals involved in the planning and execution of the Iranian arms deal on behalf of the U.S. said they were "horrified" by the news of the secret funding.

"If you think that Israel would have jeopardized its excellent relations with the Congress by being party to a deal that was intended to circumvent it, then you have a very shallow grasp of international relations," *The Post* was told.

*The Post* has further been assured by the same sources that Israeli ministers aware of the details of the Iranian arms transfer are satisfied that the prime minister's adviser on terror, Amiram Nir, knew nothing about the Contras connection. They expressed full confidence in Nir's abilities and integrity, and "welcomed any American investigation that would help clarify the issues, if the Americans desire such an investigation."

"We have absolutely nothing to hide. In fact," *The Post* was told, "we viewed our role as an expression of the strategic accord that bind Israel and the U.S. and assumed, and continued to assume, that we were acting on behalf of the president of the United States. Relevant top-echelon American officials were full partners in the evolution of the deal, and were duly briefed on all aspects of it," *The Post* was told.

After an emergency meeting last week, Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Peres and Defence Minister Rabin issued a statement denying any knowledge of the secret funding of the Contras. Rabin forcefully restated that denial in the Knesset yesterday.

North invoked his constitutional

protection against self-incrimination during testimony before a Senate committee, congressional sources confirmed yesterday.

Congressional sources confirmed that North took the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gives citizens the right to refuse to give testimony that would

harm their own cases, during his appearance before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

One source told the Associated Press that North invoked the Fifth Amendment at least 40 times. Another source said he declined to answer a number of questions put to him by the committee.

North, who had worked very closely with Nir since last December, is said to have told U.S. investigators that other "unofficial" Israelis, including arms dealers Al Schwimmer and Ya'acov Nimrodi, personally profited from various weapons sales to Iran.

Other private arms dealers, including ret. U.S. General Richard Secord and Saudi billionaire Adnan Khashoggi, also reportedly took "huge" commissions as part of the various arms transactions with Iran, according to North's testimony.

Last week, House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D.-Texas) described how the money involved in one typical U.S.-Israeli arms deal with Iran was disbursed.

Following a secret intelligence briefing, Wright said the U.S. first provided Israel with \$3 million worth of American weapons, which Israel then sold to Iran for \$19m. After returning the original \$3m. to the U.S. Treasury via a secret CIA bank (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

## Rabin: Steps being taken on gas war

By DVORAH GETZLER  
Post Knesset Reporter

The past few years have seen the Arab states both arming themselves with chemical weapons and manufacturing such weapons in contravention of the Geneva Convention. Defence Minister Rabin told the Knesset yesterday:

"Iraq has used nerve gas in its war against Iran, he said. And Syria's implacable enmity towards Israel, compounded by its involvement in international terror, has led Israel to conclude that Syria's chemical warfare capability threatens peace in the area."

But, said Rabin, Israel was doing, and would continue to do, everything it could to meet the dangers it faced from its enemies in this respect.

More than that, said the minister, he could not say in the plenum.

Rabin was replying to a motion for the agenda proposed by the Alignment's Amnon Linn, who expressed the gravest concern at Syria's chemical warfare capability.

Rabin, who proposed that the matter be referred to the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, scored Western countries' aid to the Arab states in the matter of chemical armaments.



Defence Minister Rabin during yesterday's Knesset debate. (M. Kahana, Media)

## Reagan to name head of probe

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent and Agencies

WASHINGTON. — President Reagan yesterday named Frank Carlucci as his new national security adviser in the White House.

Carlucci, a former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency and a deputy secretary of defence, will replace Vice Admiral John Poindexter who resigned last week as a result of the Iran arms scandal.

Reagan, in a brief nationally televised address, also said that an independent counsel would shortly be named to take charge of the overall investigation of the funding of the Nicaraguan Contras from the profits of the Iran arms sales.

Carlucci, a former ambassador to Portugal, was a close ally of Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger during the first two years of the Reagan administration.

Weinberger, Secretary of State George Shultz and CIA Director William Casey had all lobbied hard for Carlucci's appointment.

But Israeli officials and American Jewish political activists acknowledged privately yesterday that Car-



Frank Carlucci, Reagan's new chief adviser on national security. (Reuters)

lucci was not regarded as a particularly strong supporter of Israel. They clearly would have preferred someone like former UN ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, who is considered a great friend of Israel.

Shultz, however, is said to have vetoed Kirkpatrick since he regards her as too "independent." The secretary clearly hopes to remain the chief architect of U.S. foreign poli-

cy, despite his personal embarrassment over the Iran arms sales, which he opposed.

Attorney-General Edwin Meese, during a press conference later yesterday, said the still-to-be-named independent counsel would investigate alleged criminal activity on the part of government officials and private citizens. He said a federal law may have been violated by U.S. officials. He declined to elaborate.

Meese added that he was removing himself from the investigation because of the "appearance" of a possible conflict of interest, given his very close personal relationship with the president.

Various Israeli officials and private citizens, including arms dealers, would be asked to testify, according to other U.S. sources.

Reagan, in his speech, said he would cooperate with the investigation. He pledged to "get to the bottom of this matter. If illegal acts were undertaken, those who did so will be brought to justice. If actions in implementing my policy were taken without my authorization, knowledge or concurrence, this will (Continued on Back Page)

## Minister's dilemma replay of '70 crisis

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The High Court of Justice decision yesterday on the Shoshana Miller case, and Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz's subsequent soul-searching, mark yet another stage in the ongoing religious-secular tug of war over the proper definition of the term "Jew."

Sixteen years ago, one of Peretz's National Religious Party predecessors, Moshe Haim Shapira, faced the same quandary over the same issue. But Shapira was saved at the last moment by Shlomo Goren then chief rabbi of Tel Aviv and chief chaplain.

In 1970, Heien Seidman, a former Christian from the U.S. who had been converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbinical court in Tel Aviv, petitioned the High Court of Justice to order the Interior Ministry's population registrar to register her as Jewish.

In a then-unprecedented step, attorney-general Meir Shamgar (now president of the Supreme Court) refused to defend the government in court, saying that Seidman was bound to win the case.

Shapira sought a way out of his predicament, by signing an agreement with Labour's justice minister, Ya'acov Shimshon Shapira, by which the population registrar would adhere to the anticipated High Court order to list Seidman as a Jew, and in exchange Golda Meir's government would act against local Reform conversions.

But Shapira's NRP rejected this compromise. After a volatile party meeting on May 28, 1970, the NRP said it would leave the coalition "should the government agree to recognize as a Jew someone who is converted not in accordance with halacha." Shapira appeared to be heading for resignation and the coalition for a fully fledged crisis.

But then Goren stepped in. Just 24 hours before the High Court hearing of Seidman's petition, Goren met her, questioned her on various aspects of Judaism, was convinced of her sincerity, enlisted two other Chaplaincy Corps rabbis and performed a halachic conversion.

Shapira seized on Goren's conversion and registered Seidman as Jewish. She withdrew her petition and the coalition was saved.



Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz. (David Brauner)

The listing of "nationality" in the population registry and on identity cards has been the cause of monumental legal battles in the High Court for over 25 years.

In his book *The Constitutional Law of Israel*, Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein describes these "Who is a Jew" cases, which have repeatedly set off public storms and political crises, as "much ado about nothing."

Rubinstein, considered one of the country's leading constitutional law experts, notes that being listed in the population registry as a Jew "lacks any legal significance. It does not bestow rights or impose obligations," but is intended solely for statistical and administrative purposes and to make life easier for security personnel.

"Those who are sticklers for *mitzvot*," Rubinstein writes, "will surely not rely on the population registry." In 1958, the religious parties left the coalition in protest against registration guidelines which stated that a person should be listed as "Jewish" if he declares himself, in good faith, to be so.

Then-prime minister David Ben-Gurion sought to mollify the religious parties by "polling" 50 eminent Jewish scholars from around the world on whether registration should be based on "secular" or "halachic" considerations. Thirty-seven of the 45 scholars who replied opted for halacha. The interior (Continued on page 4)

## PLO fears areas men could be too independent

By JOEL GREENBERG  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The PLO has decided to drop *Al-Fajr* editor Hanna Siniora and Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme from a new delegation it is forming for Middle East peace talks, according to reliable Palestinian sources.

The formation of a delegation whose members are not from the territories and who are openly affiliated with the PLO reflects concern that Palestinians from the territories could take political positions independent of the PLO, the sources said. Recent statements by Siniora have reportedly fuelled this concern.

Siniora and Abu Rahme were originally listed by the PLO as observers in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks.

The delegation reshuffle reflects a hardening of the PLO line, according to the sources.

## Treaties with U.S. and EEC will be carried out fully

## Treasury promises import dues will drop January

By PINHAS LANDAU  
Post Finance Reporter

The government is determined to implement fully the cuts in import duties on goods from the EEC and the U.S. due to take effect on January 1, 1987, without any counterbalancing rise in purchase tax.

That was the unequivocal undertaking made yesterday by Mordechai Bareket, the head of the Treasury's customs department, in a meeting with reporters.

He also announced a wide-ranging rationalization of purchase tax on all goods, but this, he promised, was not designed to raise new taxes for the government, or to compensate for the loss of revenue stemming from the customs reduction.

In Bareket's estimation, almost every item imported from the EEC and the U.S. would be cheaper after January 1. But the extent of the price reductions has not yet been determined, and will in any case vary considerably between groups of goods.

He said that he did not expect to have final details until late this month, and that he might not announce them until the last moment, "so as not to drive the public mad."

The reductions will not apply to goods from

countries such as Japan, or to non-EEC countries within Europe, such as Sweden and Switzerland. Spain, too, despite having recently joined the EEC, is not yet a full member, and is therefore not a party to the agreement.

With regard to private cars, the effect of the customs reductions will be to lower their prices to consumers by up to 10 per cent. In addition to this, however, there will be the effect of the changes in purchase tax. Currently, cars with engines of up to 1300cc are taxed at 85 per cent, and those in the 1300-1600cc range at 115 per cent of the import price.

The forthcoming purchase tax rationalization will eliminate the two-band system and impose the same rate on all cars of less than 1600cc, which account for over 80 per cent of the cars purchased in Israel.

The price of 1600cc cars will fall by the largest percentage, since their purchase tax rate will drop along with the customs payable on them. Prices of small-engined cars will fall by less. Similarly, while other consumer goods will be made cheaper by the customs reductions, the exact amounts will depend on whether they are subject to increases or decreases in purchase tax rates.

Bareket was adamant that the reorganization

of the purchase tax — by slotting almost all goods into four or five categories, each with its own tax rate, instead of the present 17 — is not a backdoor price rise to recoup the estimated \$200 million that the government stands to lose from lower customs receipts.

"Some goods will move to a higher tax bracket and some will have their tax level reduced, but overall the government will come out even from the purchase tax changes, while losing on the customs rollback," he stressed.

The few exceptions to the new groupings will include imported cigarettes and whiskey, which have very high purchase tax rates. Carpets will be put into one of the ordinary bands — apparently indicating that the very heavy protection that Carmel Carpets and other local producers benefit from will be significantly reduced.

In reply to questions, Bareket admitted that special efforts to monitor the changes will be needed by price inspectors in the period following January 1, especially in relation to goods whose prices are not currently under government control. The object of the reductions is to lower prices to consumers, not to allow extra profits to importers.

## 28 dead in Shi'ite-PLO battles

## Beirut Christians, Moslems join in protest on inflation

Post Middle East Staff and Agencies

BEIRUT. — Christians and Moslems banded together in a rare display of unity yesterday to paralyze Lebanon with a one-day nation-wide strike to protest soaring inflation after 11 years of civil war.

Schools, shops, banks, newspapers, sidewalk cafes, restaurants and other businesses closed in Beirut's Christian and Moslem sectors.

The strike came as Shi'ite Moslems and Palestinians continued fighting in Beirut and in South Lebanon over control of Palestinian refugee camps and their environs. Police said 28 people were killed and 55 wounded yesterday.

The dead included 12 children who died because of a "lack of

medicines and proper medical care" in Tyre's Rashidiyeh refugee camp, besieged by Shi'ite militiamen since October 1.

The PLO drive against the Sidon-area town of Maghdousheh last Monday, which touched off the recent round of fighting, was initially designed to take pressure off Palestinian forces at Rashidiyeh.

Reporters in Sidon said yesterday that the PLO now controls the western and southwestern sections of Maghdousheh, 5 kms southeast of Sidon, as well as all the adjacent hills that command the strategic highway linking the predominantly Shi'ite region with Sidon.

They said Amal only controls the triangular-shaped northern section of Maghdousheh.

## The West Bank homes 'mystery'

More than 2,700 homes have begun going up in Jewish settlements in the territories since the formation of the national unity government. Housing Minister David Levy has told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Outlays on housing represent only part of the government's spending in the West Bank, and Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsar says that the real cost to the taxpayer of settlement activity "has become a bigger mystery than the Vanunu affair." (Full report, Page 5)

## Smokes famine looms again

By PINHAS LANDAU  
Post Finance Reporter

A new cigarette shortage may be looming, if customs head Mordechai Bareket carries out his threat to keep the latest shipment of tobacco imported by Dubek under lock and key in the bonded warehouse where it now sits.

Bareket is fuming over the continued failure of Dubek, Israel's monopolist cigarette manufacturer, to produce a detailed breakdown of the types of tobacco leaves and stalks it is importing, including exact pricing of each type.

Dubek's managing-director is under arrest and the company under investigation on suspicion of systematically falsifying the value of its imports, bloating its payment to some of its foreign suppliers and arranging with them to divert the excess payments into secret bank accounts.

After a prolonged wrangle between customs authorities and the company, Bareket released the last shipment when the company promised to provide detailed documentation from all its suppliers, instead of the average cost of tobacco imported, as it had done previously. To date it has given the information for the majority of the suppliers, but not for the two suspected of assisting to distort the bills they sent.



## The weather at major Swissair destinations

	2.12.86	MIN.	C	F	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	4	4	4	4	4	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	1	3	8	46	7	Cloudy
BIRMINGHAM	14	5	25	77	41	Cloudy
CHICAGO	4	3	7	45	7	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	4	4	9	48	8	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	1	2	8	46	7	Cloudy
GENEVA	1	2	7	45	4	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	16	4	21	70	28	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
MADRID	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
MONTREAL	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
NEW YORK	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
OSLO	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
PARIS	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
RUDE JARU	21	6	26	79	36	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
TOKYO	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
TORONTO	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
VIENNA	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy
ZURICH	14	3	28	82	7	Cloudy

\*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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## THE WEATHER

Forecast: Intermittent light rain.

	Yesterday's	Humidity	Yesterday's	Today's	Max
Jerusalem	62	3-8	9	11	
Golan	60	1-10	11		
Nahariya	47	6-15	16		
Safad	69	1-7	8		
Tiberias	54	7-16	16		
Nazareth	50	4-12	13		
Afula	53	5-13	16		
Shimon	49	1-12	13		
Tel Aviv	65	6-15	16		
B-G Airport	75	7-14	14		
Jericho	71	6-16	17		
Gaza	67	10-17	17		
Beersheba	75	5-14	15		
Eilat	58	10-19	20		

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Belgian Minister of Education Andre Damsseaux was a guest of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on Tuesday. He toured the Mt. Scopus campus and met with Rector and Acting President Prof. Amnon Pazy.

At today's Jerusalem Rotary Club meeting in the YMCA at 1 p.m., Prof. R. Feuerstein (Director, Hadassah/Wizo Canada Research Institute) will talk on "Programmes of Intelligence Enrichment."

## ARRIVALS

Dr. Samuel I. Cohen, executive vice-president J.N.F. of America, and Mr. Menachem Jaconi, chairman of national projects, J.N.F. of America, members of the Chairman's Mission, for a meeting at Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael.

Mrs. Irene Kreitman, England, guest of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, to participate in the Ben-Gurion centennial celebrations.

## Peres pledges 'Nakash law' minister veto

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Labour Party ministers will vote against the proposed amendment to the Penal Code known as the "Nakash law." Foreign Minister Peres said on Monday night.

At its next meeting, the cabinet is scheduled to hear Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein's appeal against a 3-2 Ministerial Legislation Committee decision to approve the amendment and send it to the Knesset for a first reading.

In a meeting on Monday night with Justice Minister Avraham Shari, Peres said that the proposed amendment would turn Israel into a haven for criminals from around the world. He also told Shari that it was inconceivable that Israeli laws should be changed just to solve the predicament of one man.

Sharir reiterated his intention to proceed with passage of the law which would allow William Nakash, who is wanted by French authorities on charges of murder, to serve out his prison term in Israel.

LOTTO. - In yesterday's drawing of the national lottery, the following numbers were picked: 14, 16, 17, 21, 31, 40, and the additional number, 11.

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

# Cameri pledges to fight censor's ban of 'The Last Jew'

By MARSHA POMERANTZ  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - The management of the Cameri Theatre yesterday appealed the Film and Theatre Censorship Board's banning of the play *The Last Secular Jew*. The cabaret-style political satire by Shmuel Hasfari was to have opened here tonight.

According to artistic director Ilan Ronnen, the theatre is also considering an appeal to the High Court of Justice, in addition to the appeal lodged with the Censorship Board.

A protest meeting by performing artists is planned for Tel Aviv's Tsavta Theatre on Sunday evening. They are also launching a campaign among Knesset members for the repeal of the controversial censorship law, which is based on a law from the British Mandate which has since been repealed in England.

Ten of the 15 attending members of the Censorship Board voted at a meeting on Monday to ban the play entirely - an extreme move which has only one precedent: Yitzhak

Laor's *Ephraim Returns to the Army*. It was banned about a year ago, and the appeal to the High Court of Justice is still pending.

*The Last Secular Jew* takes place after "the next war," when the State of Israel has become theocracy of Judea in which those who do not conform to halacha (religious law) are interrogated and tortured.

The Censorship Board found it "liable to stir up hatred against all religious people," chairman Yehoshua Justman said on Educa-

tional TV's *Erev Hadash* program yesterday. He said the board considered it a severe infringement of what he called the national cultural consensus and likely to offend secular as well as religious Jews.

Playwright Hasfari is himself an Orthodox Jew. He said the cabaret format of the play features a master of ceremonies and four actors - all males, presumably to protect the modesty of women.

He stressed that the action occurs "in the future" and said the actors

portray figures similar to the Saudi religious police of today. One of their functions is to "educate the audience," and those who demonstrate the proper attitude are awarded "certificates of uprightness."

Though the censorship board is empowered to judge only the script of the play, Hasfari thinks its members may have been influenced by press reports about his stage direction. One article that appeared last Friday described a character's

attempt to pass air to the tune of "Harkiva." In the context of the satire, this is an expression of the old Zionist regime, and thus anathema to the new theocracy.

Hasfari won first prize at a festival of alternative theatre of Acre with a play about religious settlements on the West Bank, called *Tashmad*. He has since had plays produced at the Khan in Jerusalem, the Cameri and the Beersheba Municipal Theatre, all involving an explanation of the nature of religious identity.

## PERETZ

(Continued from Page One)

Eilon added that identifying a convert as such on his identity card would be contrary to the letter and spirit of Jewish law. Eilon, an observant Jew, is professor of Jewish law at the Hebrew University.

Speaking at the IMPJ's news conference, the organization's director Meir Azari called the decision "another step strengthening Progressive Judaism in Israel," and said that it would also help Israel's image abroad, where the case has received wide media coverage.

Dvora Getzler adds: Morasha MK Avraham Werdiger told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the High Court decision could only increase pressure for "Who Is a Jew" legislation. He said that the Orthodox lobby in the Knesset would now start to exert pressure on the Likud to honour its promises on that matter.

Other sources close to the ultra-Orthodox camp said there was a sense of glee in Agudat Yisrael, which views the High Court ruling as a blow to Shas and Peretz.

In the plenum yesterday, Aguda's Menachem Porush termed registration of Miller as a Jew "a lie." How could the interior minister lend his hand to such a falsification, Porush wondered.



IN STYLE. Models at nurses convention yesterday, at the Jerusalem Hilton, wear latest ward fashions, by Pierre Cardin. (N. Ben Ami, Media Images)

## NORTH

(Continued from Page One)

account in Switzerland. Israel then deposited \$12m. in the Contrats secret Swiss bank account. The remaining \$4m. was divided among the various private arms agents involved in the deal.

Other U.S. officials said that Israel "routinely" marked up the price of U.S. weapons to Iran by as much as 500 per cent. Iran, desperate for spare parts, was often willing to pay those kinds of premiums.

In an interview with *Time* magazine this week, President Reagan said that he had been told by Meese that a third country had been involved in funneling profits from the sales to the Contras.

"Another country was facilitating those sales of weapons systems," Reagan said, without mentioning Israel by name. "They then were overcharging and were apparently putting the money into bank accounts of the leaders of the Contras. It wasn't us funneling the money to them. It was another country."

In first disclosing the Contras connection last week, Meese had distinguished between Israeli "representatives" and Israeli "officials." But while Schwimmer and Nimrod could technically be seen as "private" Israeli citizens who happened to have close ties with the government, Nir was without doubt a high official.

Starting last December, Nir served as the chief liaison on the Iran arms deals with North. Nir, in fact, joined North and former U.S. national security adviser Robert McFarlane on a secret trip to Tehran last May.

Meese yesterday refused to revise any of the remarks he made last week. "My statements a week ago stand for themselves," he said at a Justice Department briefing.

There have been reports that Peres telephoned both Meese and Secretary of State George Shultz last week before issuing the Israeli denial of involvement in the Contras funding operation. But the Americans, in private comments, are not backing away from their deeply held suspicions that various Israeli officials knew of the scheme.

"It's all going to come out in the course of the investigation," one U.S. official said yesterday.

The repeated U.S. allegations of direct Israeli involvement in the Contras funding scheme were based in large measure on what North had told his Justice Department interrogators. "We have no reason to believe that North was lying about the Israeli role," one U.S. official said.

# MKs won't get raise for at least fortnight

By DVORAH GETZLER

Knesset members' salaries will continue at their present level for at least another two weeks, pending the deliberations of a sub-committee of the House Committee and despite the recommendations of a committee headed by former state comptroller Yitzhak Nebenzahl.

Meeting yesterday, the House Committee, which invited the press to attend, decided that it would accept the Nebenzahl report, but would also set up a sub-committee to go into details of how the report is to be implemented.

Among the issues in the Nebenzahl report on MK's salaries to which members of the committee took exception were those relating to car allowances, and the vexed question of MKs who earn income in addition to their salaries as MKs.

This issue is to be taken up by the House Committee, with a view to introducing legislation that would "remove the discrimination" existing between those MKs who have no other employment and those who do.

The media came in for severe criticism at the meeting, with committee chairman Micha Reiser leading the attack and claiming that the media's attitude was endangering Israel's democratic institutions.

But although Zvi Terlo, a member of the Nebenzahl committee, stressed that the Knesset must find the money to institute computerized voting - which would help overcome some criticisms of MKs' failure to attend the Knesset - none of the committee members addressed themselves seriously to combating absenteeism.

Meanwhile, the Shirit Commission appointed last February by Education Minister Yitzhak Navon

to formulate amendments to the Broadcasting Authority Law has completed its task. The panel, headed by Prof. Shimon Shitrit of the Hebrew University's Law Faculty, has proposed an emergency measure - to be in force for two years only - which would make it illegal for ITV workers deliberately to stop broadcasts.

The Communications Ministry yesterday decided to extend its trial broadcasts of the Second Channel by two hours while Israel Television is blacked out. Viewing times on UHF channel 22 will be from 7-11 p.m., instead of 7-9 p.m. as up to now.

## Pickering abandons Gaza Strip tour

By GREER FAY CASHMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel Television was off the air for the second night in a row and there are grave doubts as to whether broadcasts will resume tonight. Management and staff blamed each other for the blackout.

Negotiations between the parties on new work conditions and wage agreements are scheduled to begin this morning, and are to continue whether there are broadcasts or not.

Meanwhile, the Shirit Commission appointed last February by Education Minister Yitzhak Navon

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering abruptly called off his tour of Jewish settlements in Gaza yesterday, after spotting a group of journalists who insisted on their right to accompany him.

The ambassador was a guest of OC Southern Command Aluf Yitzhak Mordechai and of Katif Regional Council head Reuven Rosenblatt. He arrived at the Neve Dekalim settlement in a military van but once he saw the journalists refused to continue the tour.

Rosenblatt admitted that he had invited the journalists.

# Darwish, six others charged after year-long investigation

Seven senior officials of the Jerusalem Municipality, including a city councillor and the former city beautification chief Mordechai Darwish, were charged yesterday in the Jerusalem District Court with theft, taking bribes, fraud and breach of trust.

The indictment includes dozens of charges involving hundreds of thousands of dollars, and cites the officials' alleged criminal conspiracies with banks, hotels, pension funds, insurance companies, travel agencies and other bodies.

The charge sheet, which runs over 100 pages and covers events during 1980-85, took over a year to prepare. The prosecution plans to call 80 witnesses.

Darwish, who worked for the city for 32 years and won several awards for his work, was arrested in October 1985 and later released on NIS 5,000 bail. He resigned last year.

Besides Darwish, 54, who also served as chairman of the municipal workers' pension fund, those charged yesterday were Avraham Tubal, 50, a city councillor representing Mayor Teddy Kolek's One Jerusalem faction, who was the former deputy director of the social services department and former head of the works committee; Haim Cohen, 41, in charge of special events; Moshe Mizrahi, 38, deputy commander of the Jerusalem fire brigade; Rafael Siboni, 42, secretary of the municipal workers' union; Zion Turgeman, 42, municipal sports director; and Menashe Ramzy, supervisor of public parks.

The deputy director of the city accounting department, Israel Free-



Mordechai Darwish: former Jerusalem beautification chief. (Kartinsky)

man, was accused last month of conspiring with Darwish to steal from the workers' pension fund.

The alleged offences began in the late 1970s, when the city transferred the administration of the workers' pension funds to Bank Hapoalim and the First International Bank. Darwish allegedly pressured the banks to pay for "study days" for senior city officials at various hotels.

The banks agreed because they did not want to lose the city's business, and the accused and their families spent many weekends at hotels around the country. The expenses not covered by the banks were drawn from works committee funds, on the grounds that the accused were supposedly studying the operation of pension funds.

On one occasion, the defendants allegedly took their wives to a hotel

in Tiberias, ate lunch there and then went on to Mt. Hermon. On their return, they reimbursed themselves from works committee funds.

When the Migdal insurance company signed an agreement to provide life insurance for city employees, Darwish allegedly worked out a deal like the one he had arranged with the banks. The insurance company paid for numerous "seminars" at hotels around the country for Darwish and his associates and members of the works committee.

The defendants also allegedly used works committee funds to pay part of the costs of a trip to Egypt organized by Histours. The travel agency agreed to pay the rest of the costs, on the understanding that the defendants would recommend the Histours trip to other city workers.

Five of the defendants allegedly stole money from various workers' funds to pay for a trip to the U.S.

Darwish and his wife allegedly travelled to the U.S. on money provided by Kolek, known through the private fund apparently as "Keren Teddy."

In many instances, the defendants joined municipal junkets abroad, in some cases with their wives, and paid for them with money illegally taken from various municipal funds.

Tubal, Cohen, Mizrahi and Siboni are accused of taking bribes from the city administration so that they would agree to fire certain workers.

Cohen, Mizrahi and Siboni are also accused of falsely claiming 50 hours of overtime for time spent in negotiations over manpower cutbacks, even though this took place during regular working hours. (Itim)

## Nothing to probe on arms to Iran, Shamir says

By DAVID RUDIN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

ACRE. - Security forces have reported the arrest of two young men suspected of planning terrorist attacks against IDF troops on the Golan Heights.

Fahed Safadi, 18, of Mas'ada village on the Golan Heights and Mohammed Kna'ani, 21, of Arraba village in the Galilee, were detained several weeks ago, but details of their arrest were only released yesterday.

They are suspected of belonging to George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Security sources said the two had planned to collect explosives, weapons and other equipment for

## Two held for planning attacks on Golan troops

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attacks on IDF soldiers on the Golan.

Safadi allegedly threw petrol bombs at an army vehicle and at an Egged bus on the Golan in October. The first bomb missed its target and the second hit the bus but failed to ignite.

The attempts took place on the same day as the hand-grenade attack on IDF soldiers and their families outside the Dung Gate in Jerusalem.

Security sources said the suspects met several months ago at a youth work camp in Nazareth organized by the Rakah communist party.

Safadi allegedly tried to recruit three others at the camp, but was unsuccessful.

## Amar investigation drawing to close

By YORAM GAZIT  
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - The police investigation of the case against MK Shlomo Amar, who allegedly bribed his way out of military reserve duty in Lebanon and then obstructed the military police examination of the affair, is due to be completed by the end of the week.

The results of the police investigation will be forwarded to the attorney-general early next week.

## More 'haredi' arrests for bus shelter vandalism

Two ultra-Orthodox men were arrested yesterday by an off-duty policeman while they were blacking out bus shelters on Jerusalem's Jaffa Road.

Police said the two had been previously convicted of similar offences. A week ago, leaders of the ultra-Orthodox Eida Haredit warned that advertisements depicting immodestly dressed women were again appearing on bus shelters and asked police to intervene.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Department of History  
mourns the passing of

**EDWARD HOROWITZ** ז"ל

a pioneer of the Hebrew language

We express our deepest sympathy to our colleague

DR. CARMi HOROWITZ  
AND HIS FAMILY.

The matzeiva of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

**MOSES KAMINSKY** ז"ל

will be consecrated on Thursday, December 4, 1986, at 3:30 p.m., at the Mount of Olives, New Block, Area 4, Section 8.  
We will meet at the entrance directly below the Intercontinental Hotel at 3:15 p.m.

Betty Kaminsky  
Artie and Shulamit Kaminsky and Family  
Artie and Mordechai Kaminsky

The unveiling of the tombstone for

**RIVKAH RIEGER-KAPLAN**

will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, December 5, 1986 at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.

An exhibition of paintings by the deceased  
will take place between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Shabbat, Dec. 6  
at the Cohen residence, Ein Kerem, Area 4, No. 137.

In great sorrow  
we announce the passing of our beloved

**Dr. ANNA ENGEL-MOZES**

The funeral will be held tomorrow  
Thursday, December 4, 1986 at 2 p.m.  
at the Nahlat Yitzhak cemetery.  
We will meet at the entrance to the cemetery.

The Bereaved:  
Husband: Prof. Mark Mozes  
Son and Daughter-in-law:  
Prof. Martin and Chava Mozes  
Grandchildren: Jonathan, Kareen  
and all the family

We bitterly bewail the passing of

**KURT (Mordechai) MARKHOFF** ז"ל

We are thankful for having been privileged to bask in his personality.  
The funeral will leave today, Wednesday, December 3, 1986 at 12 noon from the Sanhedria funeral parlour for the Har Hamenuhot cemetery, Jerusalem.

The Bereaved  
Elisheva  
His son - Ron Maron and family  
His daughter-in-law - Ruth and family  
His friends and admirers

To Binyamin Tsemach

We share your deep grief on the death of your

**Wife**

Executive Committee  
Management and Staff of the  
Jerusalem Khan Theatre



## Revenge for bus massacre

# Hindus rampage against Sikhs

NEW DELHI (AP). — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is facing one of the greatest crises of his two years in office over the massacre of 24 Hindu bus passengers by Sikh terrorists in Punjab.

Not since two Sikh guards assassinated his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi, in October, 1984 has the 42-year-old prime minister been confronted by a Punjab crisis of such magnitude.

The Sunday massacre highlighted the failure of his effort to bring peace to the troubled northeastern state with the signing of a July 1985 accord with moderate Sikh leaders. Gandhi was hailed then as a peace-maker.

But on Monday, enraged members of parliament demanded action. The prime minister was urged to call out the army in the Sikh-dominated state. Opposition politicians clamoured for Gandhi to dismiss the Punjab's elected but ineffective government, impose federal rule, and stamp out terrorism once and for all.

The attack that triggered the political storm occurred when four Sikhs stopped a bus in Punjab, separated the Hindu and Sikh passengers and fired on the Hindus, killing 24 and wounding eight.

So far this year, more than 600 people have been killed in attacks attributed to Sikh extremists who want to set up an independent Sikh nation in Punjab, the only state where Sikhs comprise a majority. Terrified Hindus are fleeing the state, and Hindu militants have taken up arms themselves.

The situation has grown worse since June, 1984, when Indira Gandhi ordered the army to storm the Golden Temple in Amritsar to root out heavily-armed Sikh radicals using it as a base. About 1,200 people were killed in the attack, and Sikhs said her assassination was in revenge.

Gandhi urged parliament on Monday to strengthen his hand by making the already stringent national anti-terrorism act more severe.

"Let the House give us powers and we will act," Gandhi said.

However, numerous arrests, tough anti-terrorism laws and sweeping police powers, including long detention without trial, have failed to curb violence.

Gandhi's government accuses neighbouring Pakistan of training and arming terrorists and sending them across the border into Punjab to undermine India. Pakistan denies the charge.

Brief anti-Sikh riots Monday in and around New Delhi demonstrated the growing resentment of Hindus, who say the government cannot protect them.

Gandhi's administration and the Punjab government suffered another major setback Sunday when a politician backed by Sikh militants, Gurcharan Singh Tohra, was elected to head the leading Sikh religious council.

Tohra soundly defeated the candidate backed by the state and central governments, and immediately dismissed a guard force created to keep terrorists out of the Golden Temple.



Police inspect damage in New Delhi yesterday after Hindus rioted following the massacre by Sikh militants of 24 bus passengers in the Punjab on Sunday. (AFP)

## ANALYSIS

# Gandhi faces crisis over Sikhs

NEW DELHI. — Authorities yesterday alerted the army for riot duty in the Indian capital as rampaging Hindus sacked Sikh homes and shops, and more than 1,500 were arrested here in an angry backlash to the worst-ever massacre of Hindus by Sikh separatists.

Delhi police used tear gas, made baton charges and fired warning shots to disperse the protesters.

The capital was brought to a halt by a general strike called by right-wing Hindus to express "anger and anguish" over the Punjab slayings of 24 Hindu bus passengers on Sunday, and a further eight Hindus on Monday. Public transport was halted, and shops and markets closed. Similar strikes were observed across northern India.

At least four deaths attributed to extremists were reported in Punjab yesterday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. Some 645 have been killed this year in the Sikh-dominated state.

In Old Delhi's walled city area,

police fired warning shots to disperse a stone-throwing mob crowded round the holiest Sikh shrine in the capital, the Sisganj, where 150 sword-wielding Sikhs confronted 8,000 angry Hindu protesters.

An indefinite curfew was imposed on the congested area where hostile Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs are jammed together in narrow medieval streets.

The scattered violence brought back memories of November, 1984 when some 2,700 people were killed in riots across northern India — many of them in Delhi — in an anti-Sikh backlash after Sikh bodyguards assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Sikhs kept off the streets of Delhi yesterday for fear of being attacked during the strike. An estimated 8,000 Sikh families have migrated to the Punjab, after selling their homes and property. The capital's 400,000 Sikhs, among an overwhelmingly Hindu population of seven million, generally enjoy above average wealth.

The nation's top law enforcement official blamed Sikh terrorist attacks on neighbouring Pakistan yesterday and said police were poorly trained and ill-equipped to deal with the violence in Punjab state.

Interior Minister Buta Singh said the underground rebels appeared to be better trained and equipped than the police. "They are able to jam our police communications system... they have the latest weapons... such equipment is not available to our police."

Pakistan denies training and arming Sikh dissidents, but Sikhs in Punjab's border villages admit that hundreds of youths have illegally crossed the frontier for military training.

Former Punjab chief minister Prakash Singh Bada and Sikh religious council chief Gurcharan Singh Tohra were arrested yesterday. Singh accused the two of "blending terrorism with religious sentiments." (Reuters, AP)

The Bhopal judge considering a \$3 billion damages suit said that it was in the interest of the Indian government and Union Carbide to reach an out-of-court settlement.

Judge Girja Shankar Patel told Reuters in an interview that the two parties to the dispute would have to spend large amounts of money if they went ahead with the litigation. (AFP, Reuters)

## March marks Bhopal disaster

BHOPAL. — Some 50,000 people are expected to march here today in memory of the 2,347 victims of the world's worst chemical disaster two years ago.

The procession will pass through the districts hit by the killer gas that escaped from a pesticide plant owned by the U.S. multinational Union Carbide Corporation during the night of December 2-3, 1984.

The marchers will disperse to temples, mosques and churches across this central Indian city to pray not only for the dead, but for those still suffering the effects of the gas.

Estimates of the number affected vary from the latest figure of 45,000, quoted recently in court, to the state government's 290,000. Some 521,000 people have claimed compensation.

The Bhopal judge considering a \$3 billion damages suit said that it was in the interest of the Indian government and Union Carbide to reach an out-of-court settlement.

Judge Girja Shankar Patel told Reuters in an interview that the two parties to the dispute would have to spend large amounts of money if they went ahead with the litigation. (AFP, Reuters)

## Australian and Irish courts rebuff UK on spy books

The British government yesterday suffered two setbacks — in courts in Australia and Ireland — in its efforts to prevent publication of books by former intelligence agents.

In Sydney, an Australian judge ordered the British government to hand over secret documents that form the basis of a book by Peter Wright, "Spycatcher."

Theo Simos, representing the British government in its application against publication of the book, said he would appeal the order by Justice Philip Powell that the documents are vital evidence.

Britain asserts that publication of the book could seriously jeopardize national security.

Wright, who retired to Australia in 1976 after 20 years with MI5, the counter-espionage agency, alleges in the book that his former boss, the

late Sir Roger Hollis, was a Soviet "mole." Wright also names others in the agency as Soviet double-agents.

Last Thursday Judge Powell ordered that some documents be produced and criticized the British government for attempting to suppress them. Yesterday he issued an order on the additional documents.

In Dublin, Ireland's High Court rejected Britain's request to ban publication of the memoirs of the late Joan Miller.

Judge Mella Carroll said that the publishers had "a constitutional right" to publish and distribute the book, "One girl's war."

Britain's Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, had obtained a temporary injunction last Thursday to stop publication of the book on the grounds that it could damage British national security. (AP)

## Jordan-Soviet arms talks

AMMAN (Reuters). — King Hussein had talks yesterday with Soviet first deputy air defence commander General Yuri Chesnokov, in Jordan to discuss possible ways to develop military cooperation.

The official Jordanian news agency Petra said Jordan's commander-in-chief Zeid Bin Shaker and Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zintchuk also attended the meeting.

Soviet officials said Chesnokov had come to Amman to look into ways of developing Soviet-Jordanian military cooperation.

Jordan has sought to diversify its military suppliers following the refusal by the U.S. last year to sell it a defence package. Jordan is reported to have bought some weaponry from Moscow and may be interested in making further purchases.

## Guerrillas in rocket attack on Kabul

ISLAMABAD (Reuters). — Afghan guerrillas fired up to 20 rockets into Kabul in an apparently coordinated attack from three directions on Saturday, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

Quoting reports from the Afghan capital, they said the missiles crashed into the Darulaman area in south-east Kabul, not far from the Soviet embassy. Batteries in the city returned fire.

## Black 'people's doctor,' wife, shot

JOHANNESBURG. — Fabian Ribiero, a black, anti-apartheid activist known to thousands of impoverished South Africans as "the people's doctor," has been shot dead with his wife.

The couple, a previous target of political violence, were shot Monday night outside their home in Pretoria's black township of Mamelodi.

The government's Bureau for Information said they were killed by two unknown blacks, who fired about seven shots. The couple died on the way to the hospital.

Ribiero had a small surgery at his home and treated many victims of political violence in the black townships during the past two-and-a-half years. His wife Barbara was the sister of banned black nationalist Robert Sobukwe, leader of the outlawed Pan Africanist Congress, who died in 1978.

Meanwhile, a nationwide opinion poll has indicated that about 75 per cent of urban South African blacks want apartheid ended by negotiation rather than violence, and would prefer a multi-racial government to an all-black one. But the private polling firm, Research Surveys Omnichiek, said only 598 of the 1,300 blacks approached were willing to answer political questions.

Of the 296 men interviewed, 84 per cent said they might lose their jobs, because of economic sanctions against South Africa. While 43 per cent said they would willingly pay that price in the fight against apartheid, 35 per cent were reluctant or resentful about possible job loss.

## Do-it-yourself pollution kit

ZURICH (Reuters). — The Greenpeace environmental pressure group said yesterday it had started selling a pollution detection kit to enable people to check whether toxic substances are present in their food or the environment.

A spokesman from the Swiss branch of Greenpeace told Reuters the kit could determine levels of substances such as nitrates, cyanide, lead and ammonia, and costs around \$73.

ARNAZ. — Desi Arnaz, the Cuban-born entertainer who teamed with comedienne Lucille Ball to become one of the giants of the television industry in the 1960s, died early yesterday of cancer, his publicists said.

Thirty-two per cent of all the respondents, men and women, said they would immediately accept jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela as their leader if he were freed. Thirty-four per cent said they would want Mandela to prove his leadership abilities first.

Renfrew Christie, sentenced to 10 years imprisonment as South Africa's first "nuclear spy," has been released four years ahead of schedule, his lawyers said yesterday.

Christie, who was a researcher at Cape Town University, was convicted of terrorism charges including passing plans of the city's Koeberg nuclear power plant to the ANC. (Reuters, AP)

## Mr. & Mrs. Louis Mintz

We herewith acknowledge our gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Louis Mintz of London, England and Herzliya Pithuh for hosting a Memorable Conference at the Daniel Hotel on November 30, 1986 dealing with religious tensions in Israel and the future of the oneness of the Jewish People.

David Passow  
B'nai B'rith World Center  
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Emanuel Rackman  
Bar-Ilan University  
Ramat Gan

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## Assad 'isolated as troubles mount'

By DAVID HOROVITZ  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — Syria's President Hafez Assad is reportedly becoming increasingly isolated — at home, in the Arab world, and internationally, according to a report in *The Independent* newspaper.

After 16 years in power, his control is said to be slipping sharply in the face of mounting evidence that his intelligence chiefs — perhaps with his cooperation — were behind a number of terror attacks in western Europe.

The terror allegations come on top of the much-publicized Syrian economic crisis. Assad's failure to impose his will in Lebanon, and growing Arab criticism for his support of Iran in the Gulf war.

Assad's position has not been helped by the recent dramatic resurgence of Yasser Arafat and his PLO fighters in Lebanon.

Lebanon, says the newspaper report, has become the focus of Assad's failures, leaving the president with little room for maneuver.

At home, his military spending has fuelled economic difficulties: Assad has spent \$15 billion since his 1982 defeat in Lebanon expanding the armed forces and buying advanced Soviet weaponry.

Domestic hardships have necessitated a significant cut in spending for 1986, but even in this year's budget, defence and internal security account for some \$4b. *The Independent* reported.

Assad's close links with Iran have brought out price oil in huge quantities, but the ties are said to be under growing strain. Syria's secular regime has little in common with the Khomeini brand of fundamentalism, although the link with Teheran has reportedly enabled Assad to retain the support of his country's Moslem fundamentalists.

Perhaps the greatest threat he faces lies in his differences with Moscow over his opposition to Soviet efforts to unite the divided Palestinians. Syria is massively in debt to the Soviet Union, and indeed to the Eastern bloc as a whole, and has no means of repayment at present. *The Independent* stated.

All these difficulties are exacerbated by the in-fighting among Assad's intelligence chiefs. Air force intelligence head, Mohammed el-Khouli, has enjoyed considerable power within the regime in recent months, at the expense of Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas and special forces chief Ali Khaydar, and this has led to no little resentment.

El-Khouli's name has been linked with the Hindawi attempt to blow up an El Al airliner and the Berlin bombings carried out by Ahmed Hasi. Both of these terrorist operations, which brought unprecedented international condemnation of Syria, were allegedly planned in Damascus by el-Khouli's deputy, Haitham Said, now on West Germany's wanted list.

It has not been established whether Said and el-Khouli were acting with Assad's consent, but the international backlash in the wake of the incident will have intensified the demands of Tlas and Khaydar for a shake-up in the upper echelons of Assad's troubled regime, says *The Independent*.

## Italian arms embargo against Syria

ROME (AFP). — Italy plans to adopt an arms embargo against Syria "similar to the one adopted against Libya" last spring. Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti announced Tuesday.

The planned ban reflects European Economic Community sanctions against Syria adopted in November in response to British demands for action against Syria's support for terrorism.

The plans, approved by the Italian inter-ministerial committee for information and security, must be ratified in cabinet tomorrow evening.

## Mubarak: 1987 must be year of negotiations

CAIRO (Reuters). — President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was expected in Egypt soon for talks on Middle East peace moves and warned of difficulties if Arab-Israeli negotiations were further delayed.

"We are waiting for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to come here at any time to discuss what will be next, because if we cannot keep the momentum of the peace process going on, we lose everything," he said.

Mubarak said Egypt, in efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference, was still trying to resolve the issue of Palestinian representation in such a forum. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that Israel wants direct

talks with its neighbours. Jordan and the PLO have failed in talks on a joint peace approach.

"I hope 1987 will be the year for negotiations. The more we delay negotiations, the more things will be much more difficult and hard to settle," Mubarak said.

Asked about an Israeli newspaper report that Shamir had sent him a letter warning of damage to Egyptian-Israeli ties by his recent statements on Israeli settlements, the Egyptian leader said, "I am not the man to accept warnings from Shamir or anybody else."

"If the answer from Shamir is a warning, and I doubt that it is a warning, then I will never accept it," Mubarak said.

## Stop staging of Frankfurt 'garbage'

BONN (JTA). — In an out-of-court settlement, the general manager of the city-owned Frankfurt Theatre, Guenther Ruehle, has agreed to halt production of the play *Garbage, the City and Death*. The play, by Rainer Werner Fassbinder, is largely regarded as anti-Semitic and was the centre of a fierce public controversy last year.

Ruehle, who had previously stated that the theatre would perform the play despite considerable pressure not to, abandoned the idea in order to end a year-long court

dispute with Henry Landschaft, a Jewish businessman from Frankfurt.

Landschaft took Ruehle to court for encouraging anti-Semitic bias and spreading hatred against the town's Jewish population.

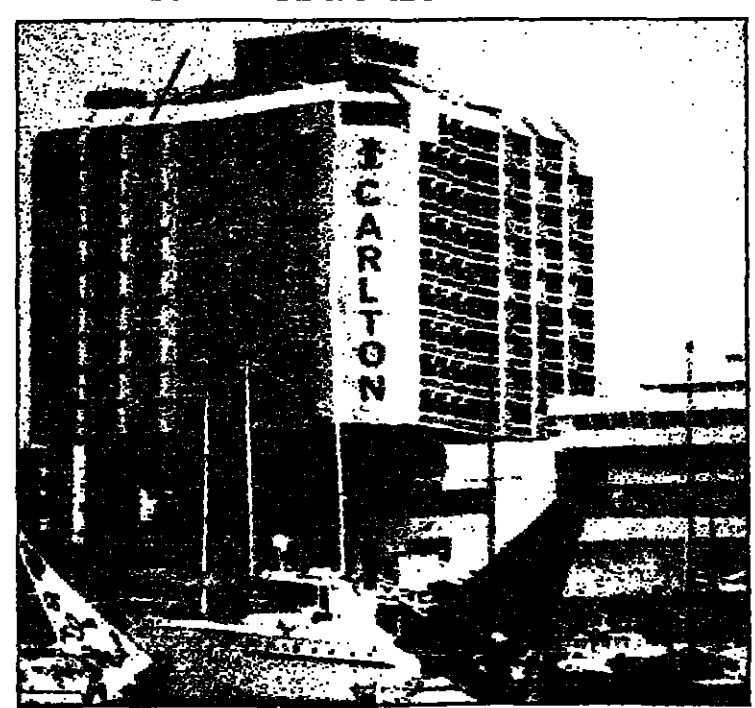
The scheduled premiere of Fassbinder's piece in October last year did not take place because members of the Jewish community physically took over the theatre's stage. Later, attempts by Ruehle to perform the play encountered political resistance, or were blocked by courts.

## THEY TAKE PLEASURE IN PLEASEING

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HAIFA, Haifa Auditorium, Tuesday, 27.1.1987, 8:30 p.m.

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# Back-to-school operation aims at thousands of young dropouts

By BERNARD JOSEPHS  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A government-led operation to pull thousands of teenage truants and other problem youths back into school is to be launched soon. Education Ministry officials said yesterday.

The Labour and Social Affairs Ministry and other non-government bodies such as Youth Aliya will also be involved in the campaign, which has been ordered by Education Minister Yitzhak Navon.

Speaking yesterday at a conference of school supervisors in Jerusalem, Navon revealed that while 5,000 youths who are neither studying nor working are being dealt with by his ministry, as many as 15,000 more are believed to be in this category of "marginal youth." This group also includes teenagers of compulsory school age who are known to be truants.

But some of the minister's own officials believe his figures may be too low. Rafi Cohen of the Education Ministry's youth department estimated that up to 30,000 teenagers are at a loose end. "Of course nobody knows the true figure," he said.

Cohen said that the Labour Ministry would be involved because some of the truants have taken jobs. A recent report by truancy officers found that in some cases hard-up parents had taken their children out of school and sent them to work.

The Prisons Service and youth organizations will also be asked to help in the campaign.

"We hope that by the end of February we will

## Democracy project to link schools

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A bridge-building project between schools of different types is to be launched this year by the Education Ministry's special unit for democracy and coexistence.

The plan is to group together schools in a given area and run a programme of joint activities.

Each group, comprising about five schools, will bring together religious and non-religious institutions, schools in towns and schools in kibbutzim, and Jewish and Arab schools.

Contacts will start with meetings between teachers, pupils and parents. The eventual aim, says the ministry, is to set up a permanent forum in which all the schools will participate.

have some idea of the true numbers involved. But it will be a very difficult task. We are dealing with people who have completely severed their connection with the school system," said Cohen.

Navon also said that technology, along with democracy and co-existence will continue to be stressed in schools during the next two years.

He referred to the recent anti-Arab violence in Jerusalem as a warning of what could occur if

democracy were allowed to wither. And he went on: "There are 700,000 Arabs [in Israel] and we cannot escape the fact that we are in the Middle East. Peace between countries will be impossible if we cannot learn to live together as individuals."

Navon said that meetings between Jewish and Arab pupils would go ahead despite fears expressed in some quarters that the policy could lead to intermarriage.

He described as "absurd" the situation in which Jewish children learn about the Arabs and their customs without coming into contact with them.

The minister also stressed the need for tolerance between religious and non-religious Jews and said that bridges would be built between the two groups.

"If we live apart from each other then so will our children," he warned.

Navon asserted that religion should be taught in secular as well as religious schools. He said: "There are Jewish children who don't know what it is to pray, what goes on inside a synagogue or what is inside a mezuzah. We must deepen their knowledge of Judaism."

On technology, the minister bemoaned the shortage of equipment and laboratories in schools. In elementary schools alone there is a need for 440 more natural science rooms.

There are serious difficulties both in finding enough money for science facilities and in training teachers in technical and scientific subjects, he said.



He added: "I hope in the next fiscal year we will see a change. It is clear that Israel cannot meet the challenges it faces if we do not have the highest level of technology."

Failure to meet the needs of education in this field, he warned, would affect the country's ability to compete economically and to defend itself.

Navon also slammed the low priority given to culture by the government. "All we spend on it is \$15 million a year," he complained. "That is all that is available for theatres, museums, orchestras and everything else. As minister for culture I am ashamed of this fact." There can be no education without culture, said the minister.

## Prisons Service may toe line under its new commissioner

By YORAM GAZIT

For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. — The arrival of a tough military man, David Maimon, to replace the lenient Rafi Suissa as Prisons Service commissioner may well bring about an about-face in the crisis-ridden Prisons Service.

Maimon, 57, who resigned from the IDF recently with the rank of brigadier-general (aluf), took over Monday night as the new commissioner at a ceremony at Beit Hashoter in Jerusalem.

Suissa was forced to resign in the wake of the police commissioner's report last May which found him guilty of violating prison regulations.

The struggle that led up to Suissa's resignation weakened morale and increased confusion in the Prisons Service, and damaged the image of

the police minister, who supported Suissa.

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev rapidly recovered from the assault on his image, but the Prisons Service is still in turmoil, according to prison sources.

The recent ruling by the High Court of Justice reversing Suissa's decision to transfer three prison officials who had initiated the investigation against him, added to the internal uncertainty, the sources said. Bar-Lev had backed Suissa's move.

The sources added that the extensive coverage the Suissa affair received in the media influenced not only officers and guards in the service, but also inmates.

The sources connected the recent unrest in the Beersheba prison with the Suissa affair. They said the inmates were trying to take advantage

of the current instability in the system.

People familiar with Maimon during his military years said that Bar-Lev's choice for Suissa's successor says a lot about the deterioration in the service and about the minister's future plans.

Soldiers who knew Maimon when he was military governor of the Gaza Strip in the early 1970s said that "he was a tough commander who did not know the meaning of the word fear — or the word compromise."

Many portray Maimon as the anti-thesis of the liberal and compromising Suissa, who said that he had failed because of his "soft heart."

At Monday night's ceremony, Bar-Lev thanked Suissa for his contributions to the service and praised his liberal policies. He also said that Maimon would continue with Suissa's liberal approach, "stressing rehabilitation. But it seems that in the near future, at least, rehabilitation efforts will be focused more on the Prisons Service than on the inmates."



David Maimon, the new prisons commissioner. (Harari)

## Pope asked to pay visit, aid tourism

Jerusalem Post Reporter

With the forecast for winter tourism grimmer than the weather, a leading Jerusalem hotelier has appealed to Rome in an effort to increase the flow of visitors.

Yehuda Greenbaum, chairman of the Jerusalem Hotel Association, has invited Pope John Paul II to come to Jerusalem during the next few months. "It seems to me," Greenbaum said in his letter to the globe-trotting pontiff, "that a visit by Your Holiness to the Holy Land can... give momentum to pilgrims from all over the world to come to Israel, in spite of terror and fear."

Greenbaum told *The Jerusalem Post* that the next few months "will be catastrophic," stressing that average hotel occupancy will be at least 20 per cent below last winter's figures.

The crisis facing Jerusalem's hotels is exacerbated by the number of available rooms, which has risen from 29,900 in 1985 to about 33,000 and has driven down prices. And the few tourists who do come tend to go to the newer hotels, which offer much lower prices than their competitors during the running-in period. This forces more established hotels to lower their prices, reducing profitability and leading to staff dismissals — which affect the level of service.

On top of all this is the lack of nocturnal activity in Jerusalem over the weekend. The hotels cannot provide musical entertainment because the local rabbinate has threatened to cancel kosher certificates if they desecrate the Sabbath. Hotels which could salvage some of their losses on Friday nights are being held to ransom by the rabbinate, which is also threatening to withdraw kosher certificates from hotels holding Christmas and New Year's Eve parties.

Greenbaum, who is an Orthodox Jew, will not speak out against the rabbinate. He has appealed to it for sympathy and understanding, but so far the rabbinate has ignored him. So it is up to the pope to promote tourism in Jerusalem.

## Peretz dilemma replay of 1970 crisis

(Continued from Page One)

minister — by now the NRP's Shapira — duly issued new instructions, which were kept secret for many years.

In 1962, the High Court handed down its first "Who is a Jew?" decision in the celebrated Brother Daniel case. The monk, a Jew who converted to Catholicism and had an illustrious history of saving Jews during the Holocaust, asked to be considered a Jew under the Law of Return and to be registered as such in the population registry.

The High Court, while expressing its deep appreciation of Brother Daniel's past deeds, refused. Paradoxically, if the court had then accepted the halachic definition of a Jew, it would have had to accept the petition. Halacha does not recognize the conversion of a Jew to another religion, and ad Justice Moshe Silberg wrote, "a Jew remains a Jew."

But for the secular law, he wrote, the term "Jew" must be given the "ordinary everyday meaning which the ordinary Israeli citizen in the street would attach to it." The court thus adopted an "objective" and "secular" definition of the term "Jew."

Seidman's 1970 petition to the High Court was submitted just nine hours after the Knesset had amended the Law of Return in the wake of the most celebrated "Who is a Jew?" case of all — Binyamin Shalit vs. the Interior Minister. The High Court deemed the case so significant that for the only time in its history nine judges sat on the case.

Shalit, a major in the Israeli Navy, petitioned the court to order the Haifa population registrar to register his two children's nationality as Jewish, even though they had been born to a non-Jewish mother, Shalit's Scottish wife.

At first the High Court sought to circumvent the emotion-laden issue by asking the government to delete the term "nationality" from the population registry altogether.

When the government refused, the court was forced to deal with an issue which was described by Silberg as "the most crucial and important

matter it had ever faced."

In a 5-4 decision handed down in January 1970, the court ruled that the population registrar must adhere to a person's declaration of his nationality.

In a departure from the Brother Daniel ruling, the court now said that the term "Jew" as used in the Law of Return and the Population Registry Law was a "subjective" term, based on personal beliefs.

A registrar could refuse to accept someone's declaration of being Jewish only if he had reason to believe it was patently false, the court said.

And "false" said the High Court, did not include religious or halachic considerations.

So Shalit's first two children were registered as Jews. Two years later he would ask the court to order the registration of this third child as "Jewish," but by this time the pertinent laws had been changed.

After the Shalit ruling, of course, a coalition crisis erupted. It was resolved by a government-proposed change in the Law of Return and the Population Registry Law.

On March 10, 1970, the Knesset adopted the "Who is a Jew" clause which "defines" a Jew as one who was born of a Jewish mother or has converted to Judaism and who is not a member of another religion.

Perhaps fearing a ruling like the one delivered yesterday in the Miller case, MK Menahem Porush (Agudat Yisrael) proposed in 1970 that the words "according to halacha" be added to the term "converted." But his bid was rejected by a majority of 59-3.

Then justice minister Y. S. Shapira told the Knesset: "We are aware that there are Liberals, there are Conservatives, there are Reform Jews of all types and they all perform conversions. We say that whoever comes with a conversion certificate from any Jewish community, as long as he is not of another religion, will be accepted as a Jew."

Yesterday, the High Court for the first time confirmed Shapira's proclamation of 16 years ago.

## Life-saving doctor: 'no time to lose'

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Jerusalem pediatrician who on Sunday saved the life of retired Supreme Court justice Haim Cohn believes that cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) should be taught to every high school pupil, army reservist and draftee, as well as every parent.

Dr. Andre Seban, 45, performed artificial respiration and heart mas-

sage, assisted by a nurse, for about half an hour after the 75-year-old jurist collapsed at a B'nai B'rith conference in Herzliya. "I was very close to him when he fell," Seban told *The Jerusalem Post*. "I knew there was no time to lose."

Seban, who came on aliya from France in 1970 and studied medicine at the University of Paris, last performed CPR some two years ago, while on army duty. "Though I'm not a cardiologist, I knew what to do," he said.

He praised the Israel Defence Forces for teaching CPR to doctors and medics, and said he would like to see the technique taught to all Israelis adults.

The scene at the Daniel Hotel convention hall was very dramatic, as all the participants — who had come to hear a debate about secular-religious relations — watched the doctor try to save Cohn's life on the speaker's platform.

Despite the tremendous physical

exertion, Seban continued the CPR as Cohn's wife Michal Smoira-Cohn stood by helplessly. "I was determined not to stop," he recalls.

The Magen David Adom intensive care ambulance — delayed by heavy traffic and rainy weather — took nearly half an hour to reach the hotel.

"I knew that I had a great responsibility to fulfil, since he is such a famous man, but I would have made the same effort for any person in trouble," said the physician.

By the time the emergency team arrived, Cohn's heart was beating again. The retired justice regained consciousness in Meir Hospital the next morning and was well enough to feed himself and joke with his doctors.

Seban, who returned home to Jerusalem, was never introduced to Cohn. He said he hoped to visit him in hospital soon. Seban has a clinic in the capital and works at the Bayit Vegan mother-and-child-care clinic.

## Women soldiers get free rides from Dan too

By JONATHAN KARP

For The Jerusalem Post

Women soldiers will be able to travel free of charge on all inter-city routes served by the Dan bus cooperative, the Transport Ministry has announced. The free service is due to start on December 10.

With the decision, Dan joins Egged, which currently lets women soldiers ride without payment on all inter-city lines except those to and from Eilat. The Transport Ministry asked both bus companies to adopt this policy after several soldiers were attacked while hitch-hiking.

Dan operates five inter-city routes: No. 81, from Tel Aviv to Kedumim and Eilat; No. 83, from Tel Aviv to Kfar Sava and Alfei Menashe; No. 86, from Tel Aviv to Ariel and the Jordan Valley; No. 89, from Be'er Brak to Emmanuel; and No. 400, from Jerusalem to Be'er Brak, Ramat Gan and Givatayim.

## The weather's not warm — and neither is the trail

It's not supposed to be steam-breath cold in this city. Nobody said anything about heavy sweaters and thick overcoats, or heaters.

Traditionalists believe in paraffin — and it takes an American a few years to realize that's actually kerosene. But Tel Aviv is a city where tradition is dying, so go find a wick for a kerosene heater in a city full of central heaters, electric heaters, gas heaters and even a few wood-burning stoves.

Jerusalemites assume that every corner grocery store carries at least a standard wick for the standard Friedman stove. And there are at least two shops in downtown Jerusalem where more esoteric Japanese or even American wicks can be found.

Tel Aviv is different. "Try the place across the street," says the shopowner next door to a hardware store where a hapless customer asks for a wick and the owner grumbles that he doesn't stock them.

Across the street, the owner says, "Yes, I have wicks."

"Do you have wicks for a Perfection stove?"

"What's that?"

"Let me see your wicks, and I'll see if you have the right one."

"What size do you need?"

"I don't know. I'll look and see what sizes you have."

"I won't show you without knowing what size."

"How many sizes are there?"

"Four."

"Show me all four sizes."

"No."

"How much do the wicks cost?"

"Four shekels each."

"I'll buy one of each size."

"No. Tell me the size you want."

"I don't know. I'll buy one of each size."

"No."

"Why not?"

"Why yes?"

(Expletive deleted.)

"What are you shouting about?"

(Under-the-breath expletive deleted.) "Thanks anyway."

"Any time."

It takes all morning, in the rain, going from the Dizengoff shop to the King George shop, from the Carmel Market to Rehov Herzl, following a rumour from one hardware store to the next, to find a shop where wicks of all shapes and sizes are sold.

At the very end of Allenby, where the line between retail and wholesale turns fuzzy, across the street from what Tel Avivians used to consider a wonder but quickly learned to ignore (a pedestrian tunnel below what was once the busiest intersection in the city), there's a flower shop.

A closer look reveals that the flowers are made of plastic. In the shop front are plastic flowers, set in plastic vases, blooming on plastic vines. Plastic fruit in plastic bowls.

In the back of the shop are three tall sets of shelves. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of wicks are piled neatly, according to size. Tentatively, the question is posed, "Do you have Perfection stove wicks?"

"Which size?"

"I dunno. Perfection..."

"They come in two sizes, take your pick," and with that, the young man pulls out two different sized wicks. One looks like the old one in the heater at home.

"This one will do."

The young man is the son of an older, bald man in an off-laundried plaid flannel shirt, studying a dismantled upright Friedman heater in the corner.

"How do plastic flowers and kerosene heater wicks fit in the same shop?" asks the no longer hapless customer.

"My overseas agent for plastic flowers is the agent for the wicks," says the young man.

"He started the business with plastic flowers," says the old man.

"My father here, he started as an agent for Friedman. They made stoves. I changed the business a little bit," interrupts the son.

The old man smiles. "I started my business when I was his age," he says nodding towards his son. "Nobody knew about plastic flowers then. But they knew about heaters. Now, everybody uses electricity, gas."

"But these, these are still the best," he adds, pointing at the dismantled heater he's working on. "Just clean 'em up and they're as good as new."

## Tel Aviv's first club for retarded children to open this month

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
TEL AVIV. — The city's first after-school club for severely retarded children is to open later this month at

the Kalisher School. The project is to be operated by the education and social services department of the municipality and

the Tel Aviv branch of Akim, the society to aid retarded children. It is designed to provide after-school social and cultural activities for the

school's pupils, aged seven to 16, and ultimately for other retarded children in the area.

### For some elderly, the golden years can lose their lustre.

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J.P. Rudolph

הכרזת אל חל



## THE MIDDLE EAST

AT THE END of September, one of the Likud's top settlement officials toured proposed settlement sites in the West Bank with Gush Emunim leaders. Matityahu Drobles was clearly looking forward to rotation, then two weeks off. He announced that he would ask Yitzhak Shamir's government to approve 20 new settlements in the territories, and was "confident" his plan would go through. "The Likud will do things the right way," he told reporters.

Within 48 hours, Peres told Drobles from the podium of a farmers' convention: "Mat, we won't permit it." Other Labour Party men at the gathering backed Peres up. Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi said: "Massive settlement... will trigger high inflation." If government cash was available, said Agriculture Minister Nehamkin, it was needed by near-bankrupt farmers in the Jordan rift.

The brief flurry reinforced the public's perception that the Peres-led national unity government had idled the Likud's settlement machine. That perception, though, is starkly contradicted by reality.

While the Alignment has stemmed the flow of funds for establishing new settlements in the last two years, a Mississippi river of government money has apparently flowed into expanding existing ones. Estimates of spending on capital development alone range from a dizzying \$300 million to \$400m., but government officials refuse to give precise figures. The real cost "has become a bigger secret than the Vanunu affair," a frustrated Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur (Alignment) told *The Jerusalem Post* recently.

During Peres's term as prime minister, the number of Jews in the West Bank shot from 42,600 to 60,000, according to Meron Benvenisti, the leading expert on settlement activity. Benvenisti has been warning for years that Israel has already virtually annexed the territories. He cites numbers and settlement names with an angry excitement apparently fed by the apathy he has met.

Much of the settlement's growth resulted from momentum created before September 1984. It takes about two years to build houses - so almost all the new residents moved into homes which started going up before Peres took office.

But the momentum has not let up. The Jewish towns and villages of the West Bank are caught up in a frenzy of construction. At Alfei Menasse, near Kalkiya, bulldozers are clearing ground for a new neighbourhood. At Oranit, east of Petah Tikva, 200 families have settled since May 1985, and pick-up trucks with Nabbus and Tulkarm plates daily bring workers to complete 200 more homes. On the Trans-Samaria Highway, bulldozers are busy every few kilometres widening the road that links the Jewish suburbs. At Eli, north of Ramallah, ground has been broken for 40 houses. At Har Adar, outside Jerusalem, the first 25 families moved in this year and another 225 villas are being built. The bulldozer is everywhere, and its roar seems all the louder in contrast with the near silence about the settlement issue in Israeli politics.

Under the unity government, construction has begun on nearly 2,800 new housing units in the territories, satisfied Housing Ministry officials say. Housing Minister David Levy told *The Post* in a recent interview (see box) that his ministry "has done just as much in the past two years as it did in the two years before that." When talking about settlements, Levy smiled constantly, bragged of "the wonderful progress" he'd achieved, and sidestepped the questions about political opponents. From his point of view, things were going too well to risk stirring up fighters.

**MASSIVE SETTLEMENT** in the West Bank began during the Likud administrations of 1977-84, which sought to prevent territorial compromise by spreading Jewish towns and villages across the territories.



David Levy (far left) and settlers: planning the expansion of an existing settlement

## Settlement flurry

**While the Alignment stemmed the flow of funds for establishing new settlements in the West Bank, a Mississippi river of government money flowed into expanding the existing ones. Gershon Gorenberg looks at the settlement issue under Peres and under Shamir.**

promise by spreading Jewish towns and villages across the territories.

As Benvenisti points out in his 1986 *Report on the West Bank*, the Likud administrations declared vast areas of the West Bank to be state lands. The government let private citizens begin buying Arab land in the territories in 1979, and three years later, land developers got the go-ahead to build private settlements.

At the end of the '70s, top Housing Ministry officials say, the ministry gave priority to the large suburban towns in the West Bank, rather than to the scattered villages favoured by Gush Emunim. "The goal was to populate Judea and Samaria," one official says, "and towns were clearly the way to do it massively." The ministry built roads and other infrastructure, gave developers credit, and offered big mortgages to home-buyers.

The policy sparked a suburban land boom. Developers rushed to fulfil Israel's dreams of "quality of life" in the form of a house and a garden in a West Bank town.

By 1983, demand for houses in towns close to the pre-1967 border was so high that the Housing Ministry could cut back on its aid, according to Eli Nafat, head of the ministry's dwelling and property branch and former ministry director-general. But large incentives were still given for settlements deeper in the West Bank, such as Efrat, south of Bethlehem, and the Samaria town of Ariel.

While the Housing Ministry put its energy into big suburbs, the Likud also kept working with settlement movements such as Gush Emunim's Amarna organization to put up a large number of villages.

The wave of new settlements reached a crescendo in the spring and summer of 1984. Facing elections and afraid of a possible loss of power, the Likud rushed to tighten

the grip on the Greater Land of Israel. At least 16 settlements were set up, according to Amarna deputy chief Uri Elitzur. New villages kept going up even after the elections, as Likud and Alignment leaders held the harrowing talks that led to the current coalition. Nine young couples and their children moved into pre-fab houses on the hilltop at Eli on September 11, just two days before the unity government took office. When 10 families arrived at Nahliel, northwest of Ramallah, their houses still lacked doors and windows. The date was October 25, 1984 - over a month after Peres became prime minister.

**THE SETTLEMENT ISSUE** caused repeated skirmishes during the coalition talks, as the Alignment tried to limit new settlement activity. Under the agreement finally pounded out, the unity government was to set up 28 settlements already approved by previous governments. Several were to go up within a year. The two parties would have to agree on the timing of the others - giving the Alignment an effective veto on all but the first few settlements.

But two gaping loopholes were built into the unity pact: Existing settlements could keep expanding, and of the ministries most involved in settlement activity, only Defence went to Labour. David Levy stayed at the helm of the Housing Ministry, and Ariel Sharon took over at Industry.

The unity agreement did say that the "extent of development" of settlements "will be determined by the government." But in practice, the Likud men have been virtually free to allocate their ministries' money to the Jewish suburbs and villages of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "The one who decides where to spend the ministry's budget," the Housing Ministry's Nafat says, "is the ministry itself."

The Housing Ministry has been a dominant force in settlement activity. But the Industry Ministry has been at work setting up factories in the territories, and other ministries and the government-financed World Zionist Organization (WZO) also play a part. How much money has the state invested in building settlements in the past two years?

Many millions of dollars - but no one knows quite how many.

The Housing Ministry, for example, says it does not keep a separate account of West Bank spending. "The programme doesn't say how much goes to Judea and Samaria and how much doesn't. It goes to the whole country," says spokeswoman Aliza Goren.

Absorption Minister Tsur, who wants an accounting of expenditures in the territories, says he asked the Treasury, the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Bank of Israel, and "no one had any figures."

Benvenisti says his analysis shows that the government budgeted about \$150 million for capital investment in the territories in the current fiscal year, and the same amount, the year before. Tsur gives a higher figure - \$400m. in the last two years - but stresses this is "only an estimate."

For comparison, it would cost \$2m. to set up a new village, according to Drobles, the Likud co-head of the WZO Settlement Division. The other co-head, Nissim Zivli of Labour, has set the figure at \$2.5m. The amounts saved by blocking new settlements pale beside what has apparently been put into existing ones.

**NEW SETTLEMENTS**, though, have been established under the unity government. Official sources point to three settlements set up in keeping with the coalition accord. A fourth, Beit Ha'arava in the Jordan Rift, is a former Nahal outpost that was turned over to civilians last

September. The Alignment has made it clear that it will not agree to more new settlements.

But according to Benvenisti, 11 settlements have been set up. He reached this number by comparing the sites which the IDF listed as populated in June of this year to those listed for autumn 1984.

Where did the other seven settlements come from?

At one, Karnei Tzur, south of Bethlehem, settlers lived briefly in spring 1984, then left and returned only the next winter. Another, Givat Shimon, is legally part of the existing Karnei Shimon.

Government sources say the other five come under the "existing settlement" rule.

For the government, the sources say, a settlement "exists" once the government budgets it or once houses begin to go up. So settlers moved into Nahliel, Oranit, Har Adar and two other new suburbs, even though no one had lived at the sites in September 1984, and no approval was sought from the unity government.

**THE DAY PERES RESIGNED** as prime minister, an aide to Drobles said the WZO settlement chief was about to meet with Yitzhak Shamir and present a map of proposed settlements. A copy of the map was obtained by *The Post*. On it 41 sites were marked for new towns and villages.

Drobles angrily denied responsibility for the map, though he had publicly called for a new settlement push. He insisted he had not met with Shamir, and added: "I'm not obligated to report to you."

Knowledgeable sources have told *The Post* that Drobles and Levy are at odds over strategy. As Settlement Division chief, Drobles wants the go-ahead to put up a large number of villages, and a settlement drive would strengthen him in Likud politics. Levy has much less need for new villages, since he can take credit for enlarging existing towns. The unity pact has only hurt his rival.

"In Ariel there'll be a park named after Levy's mother and a park named after his father," one source quipped.

Amarna's Elitzur says his movement also has "ideas" for new settlements. The movement has already organized groups of settlers for 11 sites, he says.

Levy says his ministry, too, "is preparing a detailed programme" for new settlements. But he insists he is being realistic about what the Alignment will agree to, and his proposal isn't for "dozens or hundreds" of new sites.

Shamir does not want to upset his coalition partners. After the WZO plan was published, his spokesman said the premier believed "the stress should be on strengthening the existing settlements," not building new ones.

At the same time, Tsur has asked the premier to put the issue of government spending in the territories on the cabinet agenda. Tsur says that before the next cabinet discussion of the budget, he wants "each ministry... to submit its budget for the territories separately." The unity pact, he points out, gives the cabinet the right to set the pace at which the settlements will grow, and he insists it should use that power.

Tsur's spokesman notes, though, that Shamir draws up the agenda, "and you can assume this won't come up for three-four months, because Shamir has no interest in bringing it up now."

It also remains to be seen whether other Alignment ministers will be willing to fight the Likud on the spending issue.

For now, the pattern of the last two years is likely to continue. Settlers will move into the 2,800 homes now being built in the West Bank. Industrial parks will go up, roads will be paved. The Likud, revamping the pre-state Labour Zionist slogan of "another goat, another dunam," will apparently continue to build "another house, another school."

*This is the second of two articles.*



The bulldozers are busy...

(Media Images)

## 'Territorial compromise an illusion' - Levy

Sources close to settlement activity in the territories agree that Housing Minister David Levy is the man most responsible for the growth in the Jewish population of the West Bank over the last two years. In an interview with *The Post's Middle East* editor Yehuda Litani and reporter Gershon Gorenberg, the minister of housing discussed settlement in the territories.

**Q. WHAT plans are there for expanding settlements in the next two years, and where will the money come from?**

A. Settlement in Judea and Samaria is carried out mainly by the Housing Ministry, and is not a separate activity requiring its own budget. The ministry's budget is based on planning for the entire Land of Israel.

The cost is the outcome of a policy quite different from how things were done in the past. The ministry used to fund construction directly, committing itself to buying any apartments the contractor didn't sell. That was a heavy burden on the state budget, and the results were small.

I stopped that. I started a new system - the builders invest their own money. We help out with partial financing, mainly a loan that amounts to about 30 per cent of the cost. On the other hand, the system of aiding the home-buyer guarantees a client for the apartment. And we assist the process by developing the infrastructure.

**Q. What proportion of your budget is intended for Judea and Samaria? We couldn't find those figures.**

A. The activity is not divided.

**Q. [Defence Minister Yitzhak] Rabin told us recently that the increased population of the settlements doesn't worry him, because most of it is within the boundaries of the Allon Plan.**

A. That's not correct. For example, when I took over the Housing Ministry in 1977, there weren't any settlements in Samaria - maybe one. Today there are dozens, including towns. But if he sees it that way, it doesn't bother me. I'm not attacking anyone. I'm working. There are some people who make statements

to cause problems for their colleagues. I don't.

More than 100 settlements have gone up in Judea and Samaria. When I see them with their infrastructure, community facilities and future plans - all the talk about territorial compromise is an illusion. Q. Peres and Rabin weren't always the biggest doves in the world. Isn't it possible that they have no real objection to all this building?

A. Let me put it this way: I've never put them in the position of having to provide more funding for Judea and Samaria than before.

I have allocated my budget in order to produce results - but not by depending entirely on state investment, nor by ignoring other areas, like development towns.

**Q. Are you concerned about the demographic problem?**

A. Regarding Judea and Samaria, a realistic programme exists and that is autonomy. The autonomy plan is not based on forcing Israeli citizenship on a non-Jewish population. I don't want that; they don't want it either. But if there were no Israeli presence in the area, it would constitute a real danger to our existence - the possibility of the establishment of a Palestinian state.

**Q. What exactly has the Housing Ministry built in Judea and Samaria during the past two years?**

A. Over 2,000 housing units in towns and some 700 in villages. In addition, we have constructed community facilities and roads. We've done as much in the last two years as in the preceding two.

**Q. What's planned for the next two years?**

A. We're planning a town near Jerusalem for an ultra-Orthodox population. Besides the regular programme of continuing growth [of existing settlements], we're also preparing a detailed proposal for new settlements. It will be presented to the prime minister, and then to the Alignment for agreement. I'm a realist as regards convincing them, maintaining our partnership and getting these settlements built, so we're not talking about dozens or hundreds of settlements.

## I met Nasser

Fadwa Toukan

(Part II of a personal memoir, translated from *Geshet*, a Hebrew-language Palestinian bi-weekly, and originally printed in the Haifa Arabic-language journal *Al-Jadid*.)

**WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES** permitted, I used to go to Cairo at the beginning of each winter. A sort of spiritual link sprang up between the city and me through the literary press, and especially the journal *A-Risale*, edited by the late Ahmed Hassan a-Ziat, which published my poems and through which I increased my reputation in the Arab world. This was a major factor in my poetry, in which I am much indebted to that great country. Even though I haven't set foot in Egypt since the death of the distinguished leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, Nasser's Egypt will remain in my heart to all eternity.

In December, 1968 I visited Egypt for my usual vacation without any thought of meeting Nasser. This will be amply confirmed when I relate the circumstances which led up to our meeting, though without any prior intention on my part.

Following Israel's occupation of the West Bank in 1967, I started "leaking" my poems into the Beirut journal *al-Ahram*, and to the Egyptian poet Farouk Shousha, who broadcast them on his popular evening radio programme, "Our Beautiful Language."

The Egyptian broadcaster Samia Sade also made copious use of my poems in her programme, "Around the White Bed." Shortly before the war, I had met her husband at an Afro-Asian writers' conference in Beirut, and he told me how favourably impressed she was and how much he admired my poetry.

While I was in Cairo, I wanted very much to take the opportunity of meeting her personally, as well as Farouk Shousha, of whose sensitive and honest poetry I was particularly

fond. We did, in fact, meet at Broadcasting House. Some radio reporters were present as well as the late renowned poet, Salah Abed el-Sabour.

Before I started explaining, at their request, about my meeting with Dayan, Shousha broke in and stated that he was disregarding the Egyptian radio monitor who had been alerted by the Israeli Radio item on my meeting with Dayan and who had demanded that Cairo radio cease broadcasting my poetry forthwith.

**AT A DINNER** to which I was invited by the journalist Ahmed Baha a-Din, a few of the guests wanted to know the circumstances in which the meeting took place, and I told them the whole story. Two days later, Mrs. Jehan Sadat got in touch with me and welcomed me on my visit, which she had heard about from her friend Dizi, Baha a-Din's wife. She invited me over to tea together with the latter and then added: "Anwar tells me I shouldn't be so selfish; he, too, would like to meet you."

I thanked Mrs. Sadat and told her I was privileged to accept their invitation. The following day, I went there accompanied by Mrs. Baha a-Din, and over a cup of tea we talked about our situation on the West Bank and about my meeting with Dayan.

My hostess asked whether I had ever met President Nasser, and I answered in the negative.

Then she asked: "Are you interested in meeting him?" I replied: "It has been my dream

ever since the Suez War, although I have never attempted to make it come true. I realize that a person as occupied as he is with vital matters cannot spare the time to see every one who wants to meet him."

"I'll arrange a meeting with the president," Sadat interjected and I thanked him profusely.

A few days later Jehan Sadat got in touch with me to tell me the president was expecting me at his residence in the Manshiat el-Bakri neighbourhood at 10 a.m. on Friday, the first day of the month of Ramadan.

I SAT in Nasser's modest house with its plain lounge, which bore no hint of ostentation, awaiting his arrival in a state of high anticipation. Another two minutes, and there he was striding in confidently, his fine aspect commanding immediate respect. I went forward to meet him and shook his hand as he smilingly bade me welcome.

He seated himself near me and inquired into our situation in the homeland. I gave him a picture of what was going on and told him of the widespread admiration for him among the masses who cheered "Nasser! Nasser! Nasser!" in demonstrations, without fear of retaliation by the Israeli forces.

He pointed out that he would not have agreed to accept Security Council resolution 242 had it not been for his concern to extricate us from the burden of Israeli occupation. He added that Dean Rusk, then U.S. secretary of state, prevailed upon him to reach an agreement with Israel in exchange for

complete withdrawal from Sinai, but that he rejected the proposal outright, as it contained no mention of the West Bank.

"Sinai," said the late Egyptian leader, "with all its oil and natural resources, does not concern me as the West Bank and its people do. When Hussein met with me on his way to the U.S. for the first time since the June war, I told him he should agree to any proposal the administration might suggest, so long as it ensured return of the West Bank. But America turned down any such agreement."

Nasser then dealt with a number of other subjects: the June 1967 defeat, the demonstrations in Egypt, Russian aid, and economic and other internal problems of both Egypt and Israel.

"After our defeat," he said, "I became ill. For 11 days I had no sleep and scarcely any food or water. Then I went to Moscow for treatment and to request aid."

I did not tell him about my meeting with Dayan, although I would have been glad to had he asked me. I was sure he knew about it. The only thing I did mention in that connection was Dayan's remark, "You ought to be proud of Nasser."

Our meeting lasted an hour and 40 minutes and no one else was present. Before we parted, I expressed my esteem and respect for him, and left filled with hope and optimism.

**IT WAS ONLY** natural that I should tell my family and friends about my meeting with Nasser, which was soon widely known. One day, I received a surprise telephone call from David Farhi, Dayan's adviser, who announced that the general wished to see me. I asked him when and where, and he replied that the meeting would take place next morning at 11 a.m. at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and that he would be waiting for me at the entrance.

"I knew about your meeting with Nasser," said Dayan. "I'm not

asking you to reveal what passed between you. Tell me only what you wish and don't tell me anything you don't want me to know."

I told him as follows: "Our meeting did not last more than 20 minutes. In the course of it he inquired into our situation and as evidence of his concern, told me that had it not been for the West Bank, he would never have accepted 242. He said that was his reason for turning down Dean Rusk's initiative and his promise to get Sinai back in return for concessions on the West Bank and the Arab Palestinians. That was all. There was no more to it than that."

I felt that privately Dayan did not believe that I had not told Nasser anything about our meeting. It is possible that he concluded from what I said that the meeting did not last more than 20 minutes because of Nasser's displeasure at our meeting in Tel Aviv.

**SHORTLY** afterwards, an article in *The Jerusalem Post* quoted Dayan as saying:

"Two months later I met Fadwa again, this time at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. The only other person present was David Farhi (Dayan had presumably forgotten that David Zechariah and a third person whom I did not know, were present at the meeting). Fadwa had visited Egypt and had met Nasser, who told her that the American secretary of state, Dean Rusk, prevailed upon him to reach an agreement with Israel in return for complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai, but Nasser had rejected this arrangement as it did not include withdrawal from the West Bank."

Fadwa said she had mentioned our meeting (which of course I had not) but he castigated her for this (?), hence she has not returned with anything positive to report."

(*The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Litani*)

## The Sea of Halacha

Map of the Oral Law

Edited by Abba Kovner

Both Frontispiece

Both Frontispiece

Both Frontispiece

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

**THE AVERAGE** Israeli parent notwithstanding, not every teenager has to study to become a doctor, lawyer, accountant or professor. He could make a decent living - and probably find a job more easily - if he became a practical engineer, laboratory or dental technician or a professional in electro-optics.

Since not everyone can - or wants to - get into a three-year university, and since society needs trained workers employed on the lower rungs of the economic ladder, Hadassah Community College was set up in Jerusalem in 1970.

Thousands of young people, and quite a few older adults changing careers, have passed through the lovely, green mini-campus on the corner of Rehov Harav Kook and Rehov Hanevi'im. The two-year community college opened its doors to 100 students in five departments, and now has a student body of 400 - men and women, Jews and Arabs - in seven departments.

Some of the fields offered in 1970, such as electronics, are outdated and have been replaced by electro-optics (including lasers), computer science and printing technology. The department for medical secretaries is less popular than before, as is the department of scientific and technical photography. But dental technology and X-ray technology are still going strong.

Unlike a university, where the administration sees nothing wrong with devoting staff and resources to departments like philosophy and ancient languages, Hadassah Community College is strictly geared to the utilitarian, to subjects that will provide a good job to each student after graduation.

Under its director Ya'acov Amidi, the school keeps close tabs on the job market and the various technol-

Practically a university



gies in the field. If jobs become hard to get in one profession taught, the number of students accepted by that department will be limited, and the department could eventually be closed down to make way for something more in need.

**ALTHOUGH** the students receive certificates as practical engineers or technicians at graduation, and not a bachelor's degree, the community college is nevertheless something of an elite institution. One needs to have a matriculation certificate to be considered, and only about one out of 10, on average, of the applicants, is finally accepted on the basis of a personal interview, bagrut results and a special psycho-technic test.

It is encouraging that while the college once taught only young men, there are now many women - nearly half the student body - and five women in the 21-person department of electro-optics, by far the most difficult and technical of the seven faculties.

All of the teaching staff are part-timers, and a considerable number work either in industry or as university teachers as well. One chemistry professor who teaches at the Hebrew University and at Hadassah Community College compared the two types of students for *The Jerusalem Post*.

While his university students are generally of a higher level, they are less practical and less geared to getting out quickly into the world on their own, he explained. Like at the university, there are no behaviour problems at the community college, as everyone is eager to get down to work and study.

One very sore point at the college, which is almost totally financed by the Hadassah Women's Organization (only a tiny percentage of sup-

**THE SCHOOL** is expanding, educationally as well as physically. The lovely former quarters of the Rothschild Hospital adjacent to the community college, which has housed the Seligsberg Vocational High School, is being vacated as the high school moves to East Talpiot. Community college departments will soon fill it.

Amidi eventually intends to open the school to the general public and offer computer courses to adults as well as to children.

On the day this reporter visited the campus, the head of the new electro-optics department, Dr. Naf-tali Eisenberg, was happily unwrapping laser equipment just purchased to teach his students. It becomes only the second educational institution of its kind in the country to teach lasers at this level.

Electro-optics is a clean field, a white-collar career performed mainly in laboratories. The intensive, two year, 40-hour-a-week course includes the learning of the use of lasers in medicine, solar energy and vision systems, a great deal of lab work, and visits to factories that use electro-optics. Most of the work is in the field of defence and medical industries, and these offer jobs eagerly to all graduates.

Shlomo Pascale, who graduated from Hadassah in 1979, is in charge of the school's computer systems. The latest Data General computers were purchased recently with a \$500,000 donation from Louis and Anna Abrams of the U.S. All the department's students are given small computers to take home, allowing them to phone in their homework and questions to the mainframe computer on campus. Graduates, says Pascale, are offered

jobs in a wide range of computer fields, including data processing and systems management.

The department also has a special computer for the deaf that operates with a speaking mechanism and Braille, and a computer that greatly magnifies print for the vision-impaired.

**AT THE DENTAL** technology lab, a man in his 30s who came on aliya from the U.S. as a teenager works from a set of false teeth. "I'm making a set of false teeth," he says, good with my hands. He worked at adding that previously he worked at all sorts of jobs, including carpentry and electrical installation. Hadassah was the only place in Jerusalem where he could learn to be a dental technician, as the Emuna Community college, which teaches it on a similar level, is open only to religious women.

Those studying to become lab technicians said they hope to work for industrial firms or possibly checking pollution levels for the government.

The students are encouraged to do public service as well. Every week, a public service as well. Every week, a van of dental-technician students goes to a different old age home in Jerusalem and makes or fixes dentures, free, for residents. A special van service also brings other old people to the college to get repairs on their dentures.

Students at the community college pay the same tuition as those studying at university, even though they don't receive the same academic degree. But college officials note that no qualified applicant is ever turned away because of insufficient money. There is a wide variety of scholarships available for needy students from Hadassah, the women's organization, as well as from other sources.

same time - a remote possibility.

The other method is to swap pieces of genetic material between Type 3 strain and the Type 1, another strain used in the present vaccine. Type 1 has never been associated with virus-induced disease and so is regarded as extremely safe.

The aim, explained Prof. Jeffrey Almond of Reading University at a recent international microbiology conference, would be to produce a combined virus that had the stability of the Type 1, but which would have the properties of Type 3 and still stimulate immunity against the disease.

Prof. Almond and one of his co-workers, Dr. Phillip Minor from the NIBSC, predict that a safer polio vaccine, produced by one of these methods, will be ready for testing in two or three years. "If you can get something which you can show is stable, I would be prepared to take it," said Dr. Minor.

(London Observer Service)

Beeper on your wrist

**YOU KNOW** about "beepers" that give you an audio message through a receiver you carry on your belt. You may know about a similar device that transmits a written message so that the beep won't disturb you in meetings. But now, written messages can be transmitted to your wristwatch - if you live in the U.S.

The special paging device has been developed by AT&E Corporation of San Francisco. The receiver, according to the December issue of *Popular Science*, looks like an ordinary wristwatch, but it acts as a message centre as well as a timepiece. Its integrated circuitry receives and displays three kinds of messages: "call home," "call office" or "call (a certain other number)."

The person who wants to reach you calls a receptor clearing-house and gives your number and the message. This routes the information to an FM radio station near where you happen to be. It's transmitted on an FM sideband and picked up by an antenna embedded in your watch-band. Once every seven or eight minutes, the FM station sends messages to your watch and re-synchronizes its time. This takes less than a second, so one battery lasts a year.

The watches will cost about \$50 when they are put on the market next year, and the service will cost about \$10 a month.

**YARD CHICKENS**, say farmers, like to lay their eggs in enclosed hollows lined with grass or other vegetation, hiding them from other laying hens. A new automatic egg-collection system developed by Kibbutz Givat Haime-Itud imitates nature but makes things easier for farmers.

The Auto-Egg system, reported on in a recent *Israel Economist*, comprises a moulded-plastic nest and a rust-resistant metal frame and roof. The curved nest floor has soft "grass" made of plastic, which can be removed along with the nest, rinsed, dried and replaced in seconds. The kibbutz claims that the hens feel at home in it.

A plastic comb, curved and mounted on pneumatic piston-activated metal rods, sweeps each egg through an opening into the collecting belt. The belt, which is



able that works on water. *Newsweek* recently reported on the \$25 watch, to be sold abroad in both digital and analog versions, expected to last about 10 years.

Ventu Research, a Texas electronics firm, says the watch is powered by three voltaic cells - primitive batteries like those invented some 200 years ago by the Italian natural philosopher, Alessandro Volta.

Each cell contains thin sheets of copper and zinc. When water is sprinkled onto tiny holes on the side of the watch, the cells generate a weak electric current. Positively charged ions migrate from the zinc to the copper sheet. Free electrons are drawn toward the zinc and through the external circuit before they return to the copper plate. This circular flow of electrons runs the watch.

Ordinary tapwater will do the trick, but distilled water - which has few electrolytes to pass current - is not usable. Even coffee, wine or cola can power the watch, but they are not recommended because they tend to gum up the battery.

**KEEP YOUR HOUSE** warmer in the winter with a plastic film glued to the outside of your windows, recommends the giant 3m. company. The clear film is attached with a tape that sticks to the window trim. According to *Popular Science*, the tape won't lose its grip in the worst cold, wind or rain. Yet it peels off easily at the end of the winter season. The covering increases insulation by 86 per cent, according to the manufacturers who are charging up to \$4 to cover a standard American window.

**ANYONE WHO BUYS** a new villa or cottage in a development in Binyamina will be able, at no extra charge, to receive TV broadcasts from abroad. The Durel company has installed a central antenna dish that receives TV broadcasts from overseas via satellite.

The company also hopes to connect the residents by computer terminal to the nearby supermarket, so that they can order what they want by pressing buttons.

Some 75 homes are planned for the first stage of the development and more than 100 more are planned later. Most of the residents are career army officers.

Polio vaccine

**A NEW** super-safe polio vaccine is being developed through genetic engineering.

The current polio vaccine has nearly banished the disease from many parts of the world. However, although it is effective, the vaccine is not problem-free. It contains three different strains of non-virulent polio virus, one of which has a tendency - a rare one - to become virulent and to cause the disease it is designed to prevent. There is only one case of vaccine-associated disease for each million doses of vaccine.

The irony is that, because the vaccine has been so successful generally and polio is now so rare, people have been lulled into thinking that the disease is no longer a threat.

Researchers working on polio vaccines are concerned that even this slight risk posed by the vaccine may in time deter people from having their children protected. Doctors, too, worried about litigation, may become reluctant to administer it.

Safer vaccine

**Liz Grist / London**

The danger, of course, is that once levels of immunity fall, those few cases a year will multiply.

**A SAFER** vaccine would solve this dilemma. And researchers working at the National Institute of Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC), London, and Reading University, believe they will soon be able to produce one. Working with the Type 3 polio virus, the strain that causes the problems, they have discovered that it may be possible to change the virus's RNA - its genetic material - and stop it becoming virulent.

The technique hinges on the discovery that the virulence of the virus appears to depend on just two simple organic compounds in the RNA.

Ozone protection

**David Goeller / Washington**

**INDUSTRIALIZED** nations should cut production of earth-threatening chlorofluorocarbons by one-third and heavily tax ozone-depleting chemicals, an environmental research and policy group said last week.

The World Resources Institute issued the call in a study released just before representatives of 28 countries begin five days of meetings in Geneva to discuss implementing the 1985 Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer.

The meeting comes amid increasing concern about CFCs, which destroy the ozone, the atmosphere's natural filter against the sun's destructive rays.

Scientists also say ozone depletion, coupled with other man-made air pollution, is contributing to a general global warming that some say could seriously hurt crop production and melt enough polar ice to flood coastal areas in the next century.

CFCs are most commonly used as aerosol spray propellants, coolants for refrigerators and air condition-

Breakthrough for DS sufferers

**Warren E. Leary / Washington**

**SCIENTISTS** have developed the first animal models for Down's Syndrome, an advance they say should greatly help research on the severe genetic disease that is the most common form of mental retardation.

Researchers at two institutions said last week that they have developed mice that have genetic characteristics similar to those found in humans with Down's Syndrome.

The mice, which have the extra chromosome associated with the syndrome, are proving useful in sorting out what parts of this extra genetic material are responsible for the facial disfigurement, heart disease, mental retardation, premature senility and early death - conditions common to the problem, they said.

Researchers from Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions told participants in the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience that they combined the characteristics of different types of mice to produce models to study the syndrome from conception to later life.

Drs. John Gearhart, Mary Lou Oster-Granite and Roger Reeves say they took fragile mouse embryos which have similar genetic defects and combined them with a normal mouse to produce some offspring that could survive long enough for experimentation.

Using similar methods, Drs. Charles Epstein and David Cox of the University of California, San Francisco, said they developed the same type of mouse models with characteristics of the syndrome.

**DOWN'S SYNDROME** is caused when a person has the normal complement of 23 pairs of chromosomes plus an extra copy of chromosome 21.

Genes are small pieces of DNA, or Deoxyribonucleic Acid, the basic substance of heredity. Strands of DNA containing genes make up the chromosomes within cells that pass on their characteristics to subsequent generations.

Recent studies indicate that genes contained in only a small piece of this extra chromosome are responsible for the abnormalities, and the researchers say the mouse models will allow them to study the effects of each of these suspect genes.

The mouse models stem from early work by the late Alfred Gropp in Germany, who discovered that a wild European mouse with unusual chromosomes could be used to breed mice with extra chromosomes. Gropp found that mating a wild male with a normal, domestic female produced embryos with extra chromosomes, but they rarely survived to birth.

The researchers at Johns Hopkins and the University of California took cells from these fragile embryos and fused them with a normal mouse embryo to produce a mouse which essentially had two sets of parents, known as a chimera.

Some of these mice with the extra genetic material survived to become the models for Down's Syndrome, the scientists said.

Both research groups said they now have two-stage models for the syndrome: the fragile embryos, which can be used to study the condition from conception to birth, and the chimeric mice, which can be used to look at later characteristics of the problem.

(Associated Press)

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Beauty

**ISRAELI SINFONETTA BEERSHEBA** - Thomas Sanderling (Germany) conducting with Ilan Rogoff, piano (Tel Aviv Museum, November 29). Rossini: "La Scala in G minor"; Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor; Handel: Concerto Grosso No. 1 in D Major, Op. 6, No. 7; Mozart: Symphony No. 35 in D Major, K. 385, "Haffner".

**CONDUCTOR** Thomas Sanderling and pianist Ilan Rogoff turned this concert into an outstanding event. Sanderling made the Sinfonietta sound like a big symphonic orchestra and it was not just a simple growth in volume. Sanderling extended the frontiers of sound, encompassing a wider scope of sonorities and adding many colours. But first and foremost it was Sanderling's combination of an inspired and highly inventive in-

MUSIC REVIEW

terpretative approach with first-class craftsmanship that made the Rossini overture and the Mozart symphony sound highly idiomatic, lending them brightness and dash.

The strings played in perfect unison, accurate in intonation with each phrase coming beautifully to life and leading seamlessly to the next. Winds sung with new resonance and mellowness.

Ilan Rogoff, I must admit, surpassed all of what was expected of him. His Chopin was nothing less than extraordinary. He seemed to have

peeled off layers of sentimentality, reaching the core of Chopin's essence. His performance combined both tradition and a highly personal style. There was great strength and vigorous determination in some of his passages and elegance, grace and poetic insight in others. The rubato was naturally integrated and became an instrument of continuity and flow. All the details were attended to with loving care; yet the thread was never lost. The sustained momentum seemed to build and develop and finally to bring all three movements to their logical conclusion. Rogoff indeed played with infectious verve. And Sanderling accompanied marvelously.

The Chopin Nocturne, played by Rogoff as an encore, was sheer beauty.

**BENJAMIN BAR-AM**







## Eyeing the legs of Europe

Baruch declined to name the com-

A survey conducted by Mepro of 500 buyers found the product was immensely popular, Baruch said.

Helena Rubinstein Israel, credited by Baruch with playing a major role in launching the product, advising Mepro during its negotiations of marketing and product rights. Helena Rubinstein Israel is a subsidiary of the multinational beauty-products giant, Helena Rubinstein International.

At a press conference on Thursday, Fromer said the main cloud on the horizon was the interpretation of U.S. anti-dumping legislation. American producers seeking countervailing duties or other protection by the government are able to lump Israel's exports with those of other countries' exports, which could harm

that used to take place in March. Specifically, the campaigns that the commercial banks run toward the

An analysis of the performance of funds is among the most complicated subjects that the Israeli capital market offers and is far less important than the tax breaks themselves. One generalization that may be of some use is that small funds do better than big ones, and new ones always do well for the first few years (small and growing rapidly).

are usually much smaller. They depend on people's income levels, because the tax law allows up to 7 per cent of taxable income to be reduced by being deposited in a provident fund, up to a limit of NIS 1,100 for the first 12 months of the 1986 tax year. This means that for an individual's taxable income can be cut by NIS 1,197 (17,100 x 7 per cent). How much is this tax reduction worth? At the top marginal tax rate of 60 per cent

the pretty steep rate, but is well worth it for people who would otherwise miss out on the tax breaks, or who have to stand overdrawn beyond their limit in their current account.

## Robotics and Arab workers

education if Israel is to become a rich industrialized country. Arens said the budget for education should be looked upon not as an expense but a

an excellent investment in the future of the state. Arens raised the issue Beit Shemesh Engines, the faltering

Other companies demonstrated computerized hands-off machine tooling applications for heavy industry and robot-control assembling

Fromer said every country has development programmes, including the U.S., which has over 40 categories of preference for disadvantaged groups. He said he did not regard

income levels, because the tax law allows a deduction for the amount of taxable income to be reduced by the amount of the tax. The amount of the tax is limited to the amount of the tax, up to a limit of 10% of the 1986 tax year. The individual's taxable income can be reduced by 17,100 x 7 per cent). How much will the tax be? At the top marginal tax rate

depend on people's  
slows up to 7 per cent  
being deposited in a  
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this means that the  
but by NIS 1,197 (NIS  
is this tax reduction  
rate of 60 per cent, it

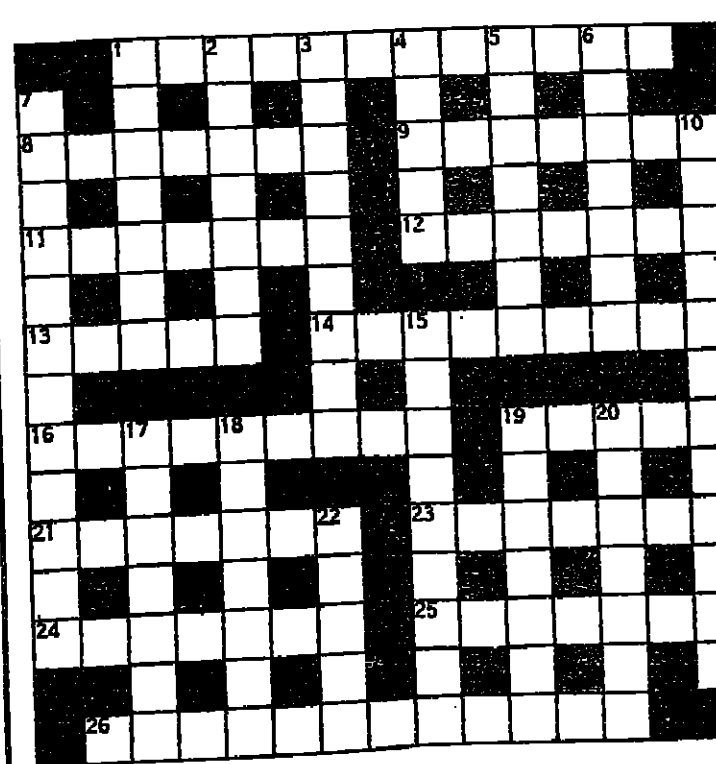
10-month period and carry an interest rate of 1.5 per cent a month, which in current dollars amounts to 43.9 per cent per annum. That is a high rate, but is well worth it for people who can't miss out on the tax breaks, or would otherwise be overdrawn beyond their limit in the current year.

## Diamond exports up 30%



# ONE-ON-ONE CROSSWORD

- 1 Something to look forward to at the supermarket? (5,2,5)
- 2 Mollify a monkey with vegetable stuffing (7)
- 3 Nothing very soft to one black-belt townsman at Eton (7)
- 4 Heavenly creature American pal spotted (7)
- 5 Clearly shows a number in a different scene? (7)
- 6 Fail to be sweet (5)
- 7 Way a sick friend embraced, for example, crime (9)
- 8 Boisterous fun suggested by Peter Shaffer's "Equus" (9)
- 9 \* & 31 Constable one up on the rest? (5,7)
- 20 Set aside for a listener to the apostle (7)
- 21 Lasting find in Tintagel on geological dig (7)
- 25 Butterfingers with a small medical instrument? (7)
- 26 Murmurings of the Gulf Stream, say (12)
- 1 Pointedly took steps to perform in ballet (7)
- 2 Issue Englishman made a meal of? (7)
- 3 Punitive device that made many walk a work (9)
- 4 Ulster decoration for the lachrymose daughter of Tantalus (5)
- 5 Excellent garnish (7)
- 6 Nameless cardinal rooting for change? (7)
- 7 Deep fascination for those who hear it (4,2,3,3)
- 10 People who put their cars in where they're not wanted? (5,7)
- 15 Does he talk flat out in church? (5,6)
- 17 Where to find dear one in form? (7)
- 18 It's incidental in any event (7)
- 19 The worse for drink, but could give sober one energy (7)
- 20 In the deer's eye it appears to hold water (4-5)
- 22 Arguably a reasonable subject (5)



**GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

## EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

20							
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**FIRST AID 101**

23 Horse
25 Conductor's stick

## QUICK CROSSWORD

[illegible]

## FLIGHTS

23 Horse
25 Conductor's stick

**PRIVATE SCHOOL**

Methane, 19 Transit, 21 Omelet, 2  
Sedan, 23 Nonce, 25 Amuse.

**QUICK SOLUTION**  
ACROSS: 1. Green 4. F

Methane, 19 Transit, 21 Omelet, 2  
Sedan, 23 Nonce, 25 Amuse.

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MARKET  
PLACE

RICHARD WALKER

GM's deal  
with Perot  
is a lemon

Wall Street has reacted negatively to General Motors Corp.'s buyout of dissident director H. Ross Perot's holdings, driving down the price of GM's common stock and the class E shares linked to GM's Electronic Data Systems Corp. subsidiary founded by Perot.

GM Common was off 1 1/4% at 71 1/2 while class E dropped 4 1/2% to 26 1/2, both in active trading on Monday. The decline continued yesterday with GM common down another 1 1/4% to 70 1/4 although class E was up slightly to 27.

The agreement to buyout Perot, the billionaire entrepreneur who recently emerged as GM management's foremost critic, came about two years after he agreed to sell his company to the auto maker in a deal valued at \$2.5 billion.

"It shows how entrenched [GM chairman] Roger Smith and his cronies are in the GM bureaucracy," said analyst Michael Luckey of Shearson Lehman/American Express said Monday. "Obviously, we believe it's a negative for the stocks because this is going to kill any kind of hope people had for the share price to appreciate short-term in response to Perot's influence in calling for change in the company."

Since late October, GM's shares had strengthened to the 70s in response to the company's moves to cut operating costs through plant closings and layoffs and in reaction to the company's maintaining of its \$5 annual dividend rate.

However, GM has been struggling to reverse shrinking profit margins, which brought a third-quarter loss of \$339 million on a pre-tax operating basis.

But analysts say they are negative about recent developments, saying Perot's departure puts a damper on the company's efforts to persuade investors that it is placing its troubled financial house in order.

The buyout package for the Perot stake, estimated by analysts at \$750m, would have paid for a new GM car project, analyst Ronald Glantz of Montgomery Securities notes. "I'm disappointed that Roger Smith's determination to have a captive board comes at the expense of a new car project."

He also says the deal gave the appearance of GM paying greenmail to a dissident director and could invite outsiders to buy blocks of GM stock and vex management, as well as causing other problems for the world's biggest corporation.

"I wonder what the UAW [United Auto Workers union] will think when GM doesn't have the money to keep up its profit-sharing payments to workers but has enough money to make a billionaire even richer," Glantz said.

Although he says GM stock is still attractive because of its dividend yield, "whatever happens from this is bad for the stock price."

Gary Glaser of First Boston Corp. called it a "no-win situation" for GM because "it will be perceived as a negative M Perot's influence goes away."

With Perot's departure, he says Roger Smith is demonstrating his control of the GM board and "GM is saying we don't want ourselves cleansed in public." (Reuters)

Tnuva, Dan Co-op  
are accused of  
operating cartel

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
TEL AVIV. — Tnuva and the Tel Aviv Dan Hasharon Co-Op were charged in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday with operating a cartel in violation of the business restrictions law.

In the charge sheet the two companies and their managers are alleged to have agreed not to market the products of competitors, such as Strauss, Zoglovec and others in the Beersheba Super-Shuk Lev Hanegev. In exchange for having its products sold exclusively in the Super-Shuk, Tnuva apparently promised to refrain from operating its own supermarket in the area, according to the charge sheet.

The charges were made following an investigation by the Industry and Trade Ministry. Ministry officials said yesterday that the cartel agreement raised suspicion of a grave offense, because it harms the consumers by depriving them of the choice of various products, as well as harming other producers and marketers.

Ministry officials are currently investigating suspicions of other illegal cartel agreements, it was learned.

## Zim sees \$18m. '86 profit

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
HAIFA. — Zim Navigation expects to complete this year with a net profit of some \$18 million on a turnover of about \$680m., well "beyond our expectations," profit managing director Matty Morgenstern told a press conference where he released the unofficial figures.

The company ended 1985 with about the same level of profit on a turnover of \$700m.

This makes Zim "one of the few shipping companies in the world turning a profit this year," Morgenstern noted, saying that the shipping slump was continuing. Only last week, he recalled, the giant American worldwide company, U.S. Lines, had filed for bankruptcy with liabilities of \$1.5 billion.

Morgenstern said that during the year Zim had repaid another \$58m. of its outstanding debts to the banks, plus \$42m. interest, leaving the company with liabilities of \$350m. which it is seeking to reschedule. Negotiations for the restructuring were now in an advanced stage, he added.

Asked to comment on recent statements by the Transport Ministry that Zim was due to be put up for sale, Morgenstern said that was a matter for the owners but management "is not aware" of any "real moves towards a sale," he said.

Indeed, the Israel Corp., which owns 50 per cent of the shares, appears now to be interested in expanding its holdings. The government owns 40 per cent and the Jewish Agency the remaining interest.

Morgenstern said the management was continuing the efficiency and saving drives instituted by his predecessor, Yehuda Rotem.

But it had now started planning long-term policies for the future of the company. These called for expanding Zim from a purely shipping company to an international transportation concern, comprising forwarding, overland transport, cargo insurance and port-handling activities. In this connection Zim maintained that a reliable railway to Eilat would considerably increase its cargo moving potential, Morgenstern said.

A team of company experts, charged with planning the future of

the Zim fleet, is to make its recommendations by next June, on the number, type and size of new ships the firm would need.

Morgenstern noted that during the two years he had been at the Zim helm, the shore staff had been reduced by 400 employees, one-third of the total, with another 50 scheduled to be laid off. On the ships, the ratings union had agreed to a 10 per cent cut in crew sizes, though the

officers union had not yet agreed to any complement reductions.

At the same time, Zim had reduced the stock of containers it owns or charters by 5,500 or 14 per cent, at a saving of several million dollars a year.

These savings coupled with the additional business it had attracted had made it possible to revise the original 1986 budget and profits upward.

Morgenstern urges gov't:  
keep coal pier in Hadera

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
HAIFA. — The Zim Navigation Co. has called on the authorities to reconsider their decision to fit Ashdod harbour as a second coal port, to service the new coal-powered Ashkelon power station.

"Our very detailed calculations have shown that by keeping the coal in the Hadera coal pier, the country will save between \$40 million and \$100m. in five years," Zim's managing director, Matty Morgenstern, said yesterday.

The plan calls for the deployment of Zim's second, 160,000 ton collier, now chartered on the international market, to bring the additional coal to Hadera and take it from there directly to the Ashkelon station site by lighters.

Both of Zim's big coal ships are too big to enter Ashdod harbour even after the proposed deepening is completed, and smaller colliers would have to be used with the coal moving to Ashkelon by rail.

"The work in Ashdod has not yet begun. We think it would be a pity to miss the chance to save so much money, only because the decision has already been taken. We believe it should be reconsidered," he said.

Morgenstern termed unfair the National Coal Co.'s intention to negotiate Zim's long-term coal-carrying contract for the 160,000 ton M.S. Hadera. Zim had at the time been obliged to buy two big colliers, at over \$100m. to assure the coal supply, he said. The contract was to



Matty Morgenstern. (Israel Sun)

assure the viability of at least one of them.

Morgenstern said Zim has expanded its services to Egypt with a fortnightly call in Alexandria of its container ships on the Australia-Israel-Egypt route, and the volume of cargo is rising. However, all the Egyptian cargoes still came exclusively from private enterprises which handle about 30 per cent of Egypt's overseas trade. Government-controlled companies that handle the rest have so far not availed themselves of Zim's service.

November  
tax revenue  
up 16.8%

By PINBAS LANDAU

Tax revenue continued to come in at very high levels in November, as the import boom continued unabated, although local purchases ran at a lower rate than in October, apparently because spending slackened after the holiday season, the government reported yesterday.

Total tax revenues amounted to NIS 1.33 billion, an increase of 16.8 per cent in real terms, compared with November 1985. Meanwhile, receipts for the fiscal year, which began in April, through November, totalled NIS 10.9b., a 10.8 per cent jump over 1985.

The biggest surge came in import taxes — purchase tax, levies and customs duties — which came to NIS 228m., up fully 59 per cent in real terms from November last year. Car imports, boosted by heavy buying of 1987-model cars, soared 50 per cent to 6,139 units, with televisions, video cassette recorders, washing machines and dishwashers showing smaller rises.

Among major consumer durable items, only refrigerators fell. Local producers also benefited from the buying spree, as evidenced by a 19 per cent real gain, to NIS 33m., in local purchase taxes.

Receipts from the value-added tax rose by only 1.5 per cent in real terms compared with November 1985, but the April-November figure of NIS 1.7b. showed a rise in 10 per cent from the same period in 1985.

Direct taxation also increased almost 16 per cent from the same month a year ago, to NIS 650m. and was 7.8 per cent more than in April-November 1985, at NIS 5.7b.

Revenues last month were running at the same pace as in previous months, and have been supported mainly by high taxation on corporations, while the relative weight of personal income tax on salaried workers has fallen in comparison with the latter part of 1985.

Overall, the Treasury views November's figures as forming a continuation of the trend established in recent months in both direct and indirect taxation.

Two Luz  
solar plants  
due to begin  
operations

By BERNARD JOSEPHS  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Two giant solar power plants built in America by Luz Industries Ltd., the Jerusalem-based solar-energy company, are to come on stream at the end of this month, a spokesman announced yesterday.

The two plants, worth about \$100 million each, are part of a \$1.7 billion deal signed between the company and U.S. electric company Southern California Edison.

Under the contract, Luz, which has already built two solar plants for Edison in the Mojave desert, will have to build 19 by 1992. Half of the income from the project is in the form of exports from Israel.

Luz's first two plants are already providing electricity to several thousand homes in California, and the completion of another two this month will bring to 55,000 the number of homes powered by the company in the U.S.

Meanwhile Luz said they had signed a \$5.5m. deal with Koor Metals Ltd. to provide the steel supports needed when work begins on their fifth solar plant in California.

Developer  
wins \$25m.  
forest-clearing  
concession

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
TEL AVIV. — Yona International, a Jerusalem-based overseas contracting concern, has won a concession for a \$25.9 million forest-clearing project in Liberia.

The World Bank will finance \$8.5m. of the project, as part of a cooperation agreement between the bank and the Israeli company, which is affiliated with Hefziba Building and Development Co.

The contract calls for the cutting of six million dunams of trees in Liberia by Yona International's Liberian Wood Co., which is expected to have a turnover of \$20 m. a year, by the time of the project's completion.

World Bank representatives, at a study day held in Tel Aviv this week, said Liberia Wood was an important contributor to the economy of Liberia, a country located on the west coast of Africa.

Yona Mordechai, president of Yona International, said that the World Bank's International Finance Corp. was currently examining the possibility of another project.

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

## STATISTICS MARKET

Indices:			
General Share Index	123.85	+0.89%	
Non-Bank Index	168.16	+0.44%	
Arrangement	106.07	-0.16%	
Insurance	185.77	+0.87%	
Commerce, Services	204.71	+0.58%	
Real Estate	205.91	-0.11%	
Industrials	149.95	+0.81%	
Textiles	213.42	+0.50%	
Metals	161.58	+2.10%	
Electronics	104.28	+0.12%	
Chemicals	138.31	+0.88%	
Industrial Invest.	144.49	+0.21%	
Investment Cos.	168.96	-0.23%	
General Bond Index	114.49	+0.12%	
Index-linked Bonds	116.12	+0.03%	
Fully-linked	117.78	+0.03%	
Partially-linked	115.25	+0.02%	
Dollar-linked Bonds	93.51	+0.26%	
Short-term 0-2 yrs	111.85	+0.12%	
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	113.32	-0.08%	
Long-term 5+ yrs	107.82	+0.28%	

## SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%
Commercial Banks			
(not part of "arrangement")			
Maritime	1150	1180	-2.8
General non-arr.	22900	12	-1.3
First Int'l	3470	2603	+0.8
FBH	4485	2736	+0.7
Commercial Banks			
(part of "arrangement")			
IDB	80710	203	-0.4
Union 0.1	60500	38	+1.5
Discount	102400	75	-1.3
Mizrahi	33170	122	-0.5
Hapoalim r	54571	334	-
General A	140720	7	+0.5
Union 0.1	36010	900	-
Fin. Trade	46800	-	-
Mortgage Banks			
Lumi Mort. r	7180	151	-
Dev. Mort.	2325	573	+0.4
Mishkan r	2630	577	+1.1
Tishbet	18800	74	-
Merv r	6170	230	+0.4
Financial Institutions			
Agile C	113900	10	+8.1
Ind. Dev. DD	23173	-	-
Clal Leasing 0.1	19500	95	+5.4
Insurance			
Ararat 0.1 r	1402	299	+1.4
Hesnerh r	339	13862	-1.2
Phoenix 0.1	765	4450	-0.5
Hemishmer	7000	55	-1.4
Manorah 1	2250	186	+4.7
Sehar r	5880	216	+3.2
Zion Hold. 1	8530	100	-0.6
Trade & Services			
Meir Ezra	1310	2565	+1.0
Supertel	7350	1745	+1.7
Delek r	3420	1634	-
Lightage	14798	4	+4.2
Gold Storage	2001	421	+0.7
Dan Hotels	1700	123	+1.7
Yarden Hotel	2650	12	+1.9
Hilton 1	26052	10	+4.0
Team 1	1950	2927	+5.4
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture			
Azorim	840	9726	-
Elitron	580	12365	-
Africa Isr. 0.1	37980	114	+0.3
Dankner	4444	426	-2.4
Prop. & Bldg.	3285	1949	+1.1
Seydisa 0.1	4505	386	+0.8
ILDC r	60850	130	-
Resco r	no trading	-	-
Mehadrin	8048	494	-
Hedririm	1383	1852	-2.5
Industrials			
Dubek b	3890	1362	+1.6
Prizet	no trading	-	-
Sunfrost	12880	50	-0.5
Elitron	1800	58	+0.8
Adgar	540	2110	-1.8
Argaman r	17400	288	-
Delta G 1	3057	1134	-0.1
Maquette 1	5220	550	+1.4
Elitron	14000	50	-1.4
Poligat	3767	318	+1.0
Schoelleria	14985	81	-
Rogosen	2850	1361	-0.3
Elitron	7850	406	-
Is. Can Co. 1	2620	1130	+1.2
Zion Cables	2385	271	-1.0
Pecker Steel	13895	845	+10.0
Elitron	388000	18	-
Investment Companies			
IDB Dev. r	5180	1725	-
Elitron	3470	589	-
Alit 1	240	9173	-10.1
Galehat	1841	564	-6.7
Israel Corp. 1	9490	535	-
Hapoalim r	121000	-	-
Wolffson Inv.	6787	638	-0.2
Lumi Invest.	no trading	-	-
Discount Invest.	2955	4128	-
Mizrahi Invest.	21104	91	+2.9
Clal 10	957	5457	-0.3
Lendecor 0.1	4250	70	-3.7
Parna 0.1	10200	79	+2.0
Oil Exploration			
Paz Oil Expl.	18500	246	+1.9
J.O.E.L.	no trading	-	-
Abbreviations:			
a.s. sellers only	b. buyer	r registered	
a.s. buyers only	b. buyer	r registered	

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	Last Updated	Tapas	Pakam 7-Day	Pakam 30-Day
LEUMI	2.12	7.16.50%	8.18.50%	8.18.50%
HAPOLIM	20.11	10.18.00%	10.18.00%	14.20%
DISCOUNT	18.11	10.18.00%	10.18.00%	14.20%
MIZRAHI	1.12	8.17.50%	6.17.50%	6.15.50%
FIRST INT'L	11.11	10.18%	11.70.17.50%	13.18.50%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.  
(Tapas: demand deposit paying daily interest.  
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

## PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (December 2)









Mounted policemen on the alert yesterday during a demonstration by Arab students in downtown Jerusalem protesting violent attacks on Arabs and calling for a Palestinian state. (Brutmann)

## Peretz to seek rehearing before five justices

### Miller case 'not a precedent'

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Interior Ministry will not accept the Shoshana Miller case as a precedent, according to Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz, and any non-Orthodox converts who apply to be registered as Jews in the future will have to go through the same lengthy court procedure that Miller, a Reform convert, did.

This emerged from an interview with Peretz in the ultra-Orthodox weekly *Erev Shabbat*, which appears this morning. Peretz told the paper that he intends to apply for a rehearing of the Miller case before a panel of five justices, now that the High Court of Justice has ruled that the ministry may not add the word "convert" to an identity card.

Peretz still hopes that before other

petitions are heard, he will see the passage of an amendment to the Who Is a Jew law or the Rabbinical Courts law, which in effect would stop non-Orthodox converts from being registered as Jews.

If all this fails, Peretz can fall back on the advice given him Tuesday night by Rabbi Eliezer Schach, the spiritual mentor of Peretz's Shas party. Schach reportedly said that the identity card is a secular document, of no religious significance. This view would presumably quiet the voices calling on Peretz to resign rather than allow any Reform convert to be considered a Jew.

*Erev Shabbat* also cited a source in the Interior Ministry as saying that the ministry had yesterday passed Shoshana Miller's name on to the Religious Affairs Ministry, to be

added to the list of people ineligible for a religious marriage. This list contains not only the names of non-Orthodox converts, but also of *mamzerim* (children of a married woman and a man other than her husband) and of *kohanim* who desire to marry divorcees. The list is for use by the rabbinical courts.

Peretz yesterday was said to be furious with Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu who criticized Peretz's handling of the Miller case by allegedly saying that the Interior Minister should confine himself to serving as rabbi of Ra'anana. An aide to Eliahu said yesterday that the chief rabbi had been misquoted, and had merely indicated that Peretz was a fine rabbi.

The Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham (Continued on Back Page)

## Milestone ruling on brain death

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Supreme Court yesterday rendered a milestone judgement by determining, for the first time in Israel's legal history, that death occurs with the cessation of brain activity.

The Court rejected the appeal of Nathan Belker who was convicted in 1982 of murdering his wife by throwing her out of a fourth floor apartment. Belker's attorneys had argued that since the woman had suffered "brain death" as a result of the fall, her actual death was caused only when she had been subsequently disconnected from the heart-lung machine in the hospital.

After reviewing the legal and scientific definitions of death in 17 countries, Justice Moshe Bejsky determined that contrary to the cessation of lung and heart activity, which can be revived in some cases, brain death is irreversible. The death of the brain, he wrote, will inevitably silence the heart and the lungs unless these are artificially sustained.

Bejsky devoted a substantial part of his judgement to *halacha* (religious law) and called on rabbinical leaders "not to ignore what is universally accepted in the medical world." Bejsky also criticized the lack of Knesset legislation on the determination of death and on organ transplants.

Bejsky wrote that more than one doctor is needed to determine death, and that these doctors should not be a part of a team which will perform an organ transplant. He also called for more medical tests to be carried out before a final definition of "brain death" is formulated.

The judgement was received with universal satisfaction in the medical world. Hadassah Medical School Dean Prof. Marcel Elyashkin told *The Jerusalem Post* that "there is now a consensus between the doctors, the rabbis and the court." He said that the decision "would make life easier for doctors" and would encourage more transplant operations.

Sources close to the chief rabbinic said that they saw "no contradiction" between the decision and the *halachic* ruling issued by the Chief Rabbinic Council on November 5. This ruling, on heart transplants, recognized that damage to the brain leads to irreversible cessation of breathing. But it added other stipulations such as a 12-hour hiatus before death is determined, and the inclusion of a "religious doctor" in the team declaring a person dead.

Former chief rabbi Shlomo Goren told *The Post* that the court decision "absolutely conforms with *halacha*." He said that it was "a rare and satisfying achievement" that uniformity of opinion had been achieved "on such a crucial matter."

## Local government blasted as 'jungle of mismanagement'

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A jungle of mismanagement and improprieties thriving under the neglectful eyes of the Interior Ministry is depicted in the annual State Comptroller's report on local government released today.

Follow-up investigations by the comptroller have revealed that nothing much is ever done to rectify the rampant misuse of public funds that has been revealed in previous reports.

The findings include a payment by the Herzliya municipality to one of its employees for 310 accumulated leave days in 1982 and payment for an additional 369 days the following year.

In his introduction to the 350-page report, State Comptroller Yitzhak Tunkin points to a "dismal picture" of "unacceptable norms which have taken root in many local authorities." Local councils and municipalities freely distribute unauthorized—and extremely generous—wage and pension benefits to their employees, especially senior ones; government decisions on budget cuts are blissfully ignored; grants are distributed to institutions for no apparent reason and with no effort made to ascertain how the funds are being used; and ulterior motives dominate many local council decisions.

In many cases, the ministry knew about the improprieties well before the comptroller stepped in but did not intervene, writes Tunkin. He accused it of being derelict in its supervision of local authorities.

□ **SALARIES.** Contrary to a government decision and Interior Ministry directives, most municipalities increased outlays on wages even if they had reduced their staffs. Tel Aviv had 200 fewer workers in 1984 than in the previous year, but the 6,252 remaining ones enjoyed average pay hikes, in real terms, of 20 per cent.

The government decided on a 25 per cent cut in overtime pay, but none of the 13 municipalities complied. Rishon LeZion exceeded its allocation by 75 per cent, or \$114,900.

In January, 1984, the Interior Ministry ordered a halt to global overtime payments. None of the municipalities complied.

All municipalities pay benefits to which the workers are not entitled. Jerusalem pays a 25 per cent "exertion bonus" to 126 "chief janitors and janitor supervisors."

□ **SENIOR EMPLOYEES.** The salaries of 300 senior local government employees were checked by the comptroller. Most earn much more than their counterparts in government ministries.

Between 1982 and 1985, 35 per cent of the senior workers received pay hikes of between 20-40 per cent; 13 per cent got 40-70 per cent more; and a lucky nine per cent had pay hikes of over 70 per cent.

The comptroller calls these generous benefits for senior workers "a flagrant and wholesale" violation of the law.

□ **PENSIONS.** Many local councils (Continued on Page 4)

## 'Helped CIA, NSC skirt Congress restrictions'

### U.S. officials charge Israel has aided Contras 'for years'

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON — At the request of the Reagan administration, Israel has for several years maintained a covert connection to the Contras fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, authoritative U.S. officials said yesterday.

This clandestine support to the Contras, which is said to have included the limited supply of light weapons and ammunition captured in Lebanon, was fully coordinated with both the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council, the officials said.

CIA Director William Casey and other CIA and NSC officials, including former operative Oliver North, reportedly pressed Israel very hard to help the U.S. and other "friendly parties" skirt around Congress-imposed restrictions on arming the Contras.

In order to further demonstrate Israel's value as a "strategic ally," U.S. officials said, the Israeli government was prepared to cooperate quietly with the scheme. But Israel, very concerned about Congress, strongly appealed to the U.S. to keep the Israeli connection secret.

The Israeli government has repeatedly denied that it has supported the Contras. On Tuesday, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset



Amiram Nir (Media) that Israel "does not maintain contacts or ties with the rebels in Nicaragua, nor does it supply arms from here to them. Israel did not grant permission to any Israeli to assist, supply know-

how or sell weapons from Israel to the rebels in Nicaragua."

But U.S. officials yesterday said that several private Israeli arms dealers operating in Central America and other Israeli "cutouts" were used by the Israeli government to assist the rebels.

"Cutouts" are known in the intelligence community as private front companies and operatives not formally linked to a government. They are used to enable a government to maintain official "deniability." There was extensive use of "cutouts" in the transfer of U.S. arms to Iran.

Israeli government officials were always very careful in conducting this clandestine policy in order to avoid angering Congress. But there is already a growing conviction in Congress that Israeli has not been completely honest in describing its alleged Contra ties. This will be one focus of the U.S. Special Counsel's full-scale investigation of the Iran arms-Contra funding scheme.

Congressional sources said that Israel's overall credibility was severely damaged in recent weeks after Israel finally confirmed what it had earlier steadfastly denied — namely, that it was involved in selling arms to Iran over an extended period of time.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

## IN PERSON

BENNY MORRIS

### Inouye: U.S.-Israel ties not threatened

Senator Daniel Inouye, who last night was tipped as a possible chairman for a joint congressional committee to investigate the Iran arms scandal, said yesterday that he did not see the affair damaging U.S.-Israel relations.

"Speaking for myself, I don't believe the facts as I see them could justify any conclusion that



Senator Inouye (Rahamin Israeli)

American-Israeli relations will be weakened or damaged," he said.

The U.S., he indicated, expects full Israeli cooperation with the investigations that have begun in Washington. The Israeli government has already indicated that it will enable the investigators to question the Israeli officials involved. Will the U.S. also seek to question the cabinet ministers involved — Yitzhak Shamir, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin? "If the investigation of this matter is to be pressed to a solution, all parties involved should be invited to assist."

"Invited to assist" is the operative phrase. But of course, Israel is a sovereign country and we in the U.S. are fully cognizant of this," says Inouye.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

## Jerusalem: Nir didn't know

By BENNY MORRIS  
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The government yesterday firmly denied that the prime minister's adviser on terrorism, Amiram Nir, had known about the transfer of funds from the sales of arms to Iran to the Nicaraguan Contra guerrillas.

Reacting to yesterday's story in *The Jerusalem Post* that former U.S. security official Col. Oliver North had reportedly told Nir about the Nicaraguan destination of the Iranian payments, the prime minister's spokesman announced that "there is no foundation whatsoever to this report."

The announcement went on to say that "from what Lt. Colonel North (in fact) told Nir, the latter could not have gathered that the funds which the Iranian representative transferred to the American account, or part of them, were destined for the Contras."

TEL AVIV. — A Nicaraguan delegation due to arrive here as a guest of Mapam's kibbutz movement has cancelled its visit, without explaining whether this step is connected with reports that Israel transferred money to Nicaraguan rebels.

The delegation, composed of supporters of the Sandinista regime, was to have toured Kibbutz Ha'arzi farms and facilities and to have attended lectures, chiefly on agriculture.

The official announcement was issued after a meeting among Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Peres and Defence Minister Rabin and a subsequent meeting of the inner cabinet in Jerusalem. Presumably the ministers sanctioned the announcement, which may have

been initiated by Peres. Recent published criticism of Nir, as well as Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon's call for an internal investigation of the affair, have been construed by political circles as indirect attacks on Peres, who appointed Nir to the post in 1984.

The inner cabinet apparently agreed to give American investigators access to the Israeli officials involved in the arms deal, should Washington officially request such access. Israeli officials last night declined to say whether the government would allow the Americans to question Shamir, Peres and Rabin — the three ministers who decided on cooperation with the U.S. in the arms deals — should Washington seek to question them. The officials said that the question was still "hypothetical."

The U.S. has still not formally (Continued on Back Page)

## 3 members of 'revenge team' get life

Three members of a self-appointed revenge squad who murdered an Arab taxi driver in retaliation for the terrorist murder of a Jewish taxi driver, were sentenced to life in prison by the Jerusalem District Court yesterday.

The three are Dani Eisenman, a policeman; Gil Fuchs, a soldier who served at a secret base in the south; and Michal Hillel, a student. The three used to meet early last year in a Jerusalem bar, where they decided to set up a group to retaliate for Arab terror actions.

When cab driver David Caspi was murdered by terrorists in April, they decided to take revenge.

On the night of the murder, Eisenman and Hillel got in a Jerusalem taxi driven by Hamis Tatanji, while Fuchs followed them in Eisenman's police vehicle.

When they reached Ma'ale Adumim, they ordered Tatanji out of the car, and shot him three times with the M-16 issued to Fuchs.

When the verdict was announced, the families of the three burst into tears and vowed that they would get them out of jail in the same way that some members of the Jewish terror underground have been released. (Itim).

## Symptomatic of 'left-wing erosion' Sharon lashes Oscar entry

By DVORAH GETZLER  
Post Knesset Reporter

Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday launched a scathing attack on the choice of *Avanti Popolo* as Israel's entry for the Oscar competition for foreign films. The film concerns an encounter between Israelis and Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai desert in 1957.

But the issue was broader than that particular film. Sharon told the Knesset plenum. The choice of the film, by a committee of professionals and public figures, was symptomatic of the "constant erosion" of all things Jewish and Israeli by the left-wing, bohemian, intelligentsia, he said.

Asked whether he would say the same about *Two Fingers from Sidon* (a film about the Lebanese War), Sharon said neither film was to his taste. The distributors of the latter have a petition pending in the High Court of Justice claiming that the choice of *Avanti Popolo* was made by interested parties.

Sharon angrily recalled what he termed the derisive media accounts of the ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport when then premier Menachem Begin had left on his first trip abroad as premier.

"They laughed at Begin's bowing to the flag. But when Sadat kissed the Egyptian flag at the ceremony in which we handed back the Santa Katerina Monastery in Sinai, the commentator's voice shook with emotion. That's the real nub of our problem."

Answering a motion for the agenda moved by the Likud's Uzi Landau, who roundly condemned the choice of the film, Sharon said that four of the seven films submitted to the committee had political subjects. "That in itself shows something is wrong with our society," he said.

The Oscar board requires the national committees to choose entries purely on artistic merit. Sharon said he had no power to intervene.

"Then change the committee," suggested Tehiya's Yuval Ne'eman.

## Arens names his new aide on Arabs

By ELAINE RUTH FLETCHER  
and DAVID RUDGE

Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Arens yesterday named former deputy head of military intelligence, Amos Gilboa, to replace Dr. Yosef Ginat as his senior adviser on Israel's minority communities.

Ginat asserted that he was removed because his close identification with Arens's predecessor, Ezer Weizman, was politically unacceptable to Arens's Likud bloc.

But Arens's decision to name Gilboa, rather than reappoint the Likud's former Arab affairs advisor Binyamin Gur-Arye, also signalled Arens's desire to set his own course in his new post. The office was perceived as an inactive department under Likud governments prior to 1984.

Gilboa, 47, currently a senior Middle East political and defence analyst for *Ma'ariv*, has little experience with Israeli Arabs, said Arab leaders yesterday in reacting to the appointment.

"There's a great deal of suspicion now in the Arab sector about Arens and his new adviser, and many people fear a deterioration in relations," said veteran Acre town councillor Ramzi Khouri.

In his IDF post as head of research in the intelligence branch, Gilboa specialized in Syria and Iraq. Colleagues describe him as an astute thinker and political pragmatist.

They say he skillfully led the ill-fated Nakoura talks in 1984 that sought a negotiated settlement with the Lebanese government.

Gilboa said his prior experience with the Arab world would allow him to look at the problems of Israel's Arabs and other minorities "not in a narrow perspective, but in the broader sphere of the territories, the Palestinian problem and the Middle East."

"I accepted Arens's offer mainly because I see in this job a national mission to cope with one of the most

serious problems in Israel," Gilboa added.

Ginat, meanwhile, denied a statement by Arens that he had resigned by "mutual agreement," saying he learned of his dismissal via a radio broadcast yesterday morning.

Ginat said a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office told him several weeks ago that his replacement was inevitable because he had served under Weizman.

Other sources said that Ginat's position as a member of the Labour Party's Central Committee and an activist for Labour in the Arab sector during the last elections made him politically unacceptable as Arens's senior aide.

Arens said Ginat's replacement was "connected of course to the political situation," but declined to elaborate.

Ginat, 50, said he would continue teaching at Haifa University and write books on Arab society.

Ginat said he hoped that Arens would soon respond to proposals

made by his office on the problem of illegal building in the Arab sector and the resettlement of residents of Irit and Biram, expelled by the IDF in 1948 and never allowed to return.

Arens said he is still studying both proposals. He said his first major project would be to draw up a set of policy "guidelines" for Israel's minority communities to bring before the cabinet for approval.

He said the government has never operated according to guidelines in this area.

"Policies concerning minority citizens must not be the policy of one man, even if he is minister, or of one party," said Arens. "I am trying to obtain a consensus."

Arens said Israel had made a great deal of progress under difficult circumstances in advancing its minorities. "But we have a long way to go to provide (them) with feelings of equality, identification, loyalty and partnership."

## Renting your shop?

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There are only a few hours left to place your classified ad for tomorrow's *Luah Ma'ariv*. Just take your ad to any advertising agency, or to an office of *Ma'ariv* (or call 03-439439) and it will run in Hebrew in that paper.

Hand it in early enough to make sure it reaches the office of *Luah Ma'ariv* before 5 p.m. today and your ad will also appear in English in *The Jerusalem Post*.

**Beat that deadline!**



## The weather at major Swissair destinations

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	5	11	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	6	12	Cloudy
BUCURESTI	14	20	Cloudy
CHICAGO	2	8	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	6	11	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	4	10	Cloudy
GENEVA	1	7	Cloudy
HELSINKI	1	6	Cloudy
HONG KONG	16	21	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	16	21	Cloudy
LEON	9	15	Cloudy
LONDON	4	10	Cloudy
MADRID	8	14	Cloudy
MONTREAL	1	7	Cloudy
NEW YORK	2	8	Cloudy
OSLO	1	6	Cloudy
PARIS	4	10	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	19	26	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	6	12	Cloudy
TOKYO	9	15	Cloudy
TORONTO	1	7	Cloudy
VIENNA	2	8	Cloudy
ZURICH	3	9	Cloudy

\*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

Tel Aviv: 03-524-1234, 03-524-1235  
Jerusalem: 02-524-1234, 02-524-1235  
Haifa: 04-524-1234, 04-524-1235  
Be'er Sheva: 05-524-1234, 05-524-1235  
Cairo: 03-524-1234, 03-524-1235

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## THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	50	6-11	14
Golan	45	2-10	13
Nahariya	45	7-15	16
Safed	57	2-7	10
Haifa Port	55	9-17	19
Tiberias	54	9-17	20
Nazareth	43	5-17	19
Afula	43	4-14	16
Shomron	43	4-14	16
Tel Aviv	46	10-18	19
B-C Airport	49	8-18	19
Jericho	37	6-17	19
Gaza	55	11-19	20
Beerseba	43	9-16	18
Eilat	37	8-21	22

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Histadrut Comptroller, Naphtali Blumental, will deliver the second part of his lecture on the Israeli economy to the Rotary Club weekly meeting at the Tel Aviv Hilton at 1:15 p.m. today.

Belgian Education Minister Andre Damsseaux and his wife and their party yesterday visited the Weizmann Institute of Science where they were received by acting-president Prof. Shmuel Shalev. They also met with Prof. William Taub and Richard Hornreich.

An eight-day international symposium on the importance of Scientific and Technological Research for the Development of Modern Society, organized by the Uruguayan Ministry of Education and Culture, the Weizmann Institute of Science, Spain's Superior Council for Scientific Research, and the National Commission for Science and Technology of Argentina, opened yesterday at the Legislative Palace in Montevideo, in the presence of Uruguay's Vice-President Dr. Enrique Tarigo.

Some 60 scientists from 14 countries are participating. The Weizmann Institute is represented by its president Prof. Aryeh Dvoretzky, Prof. Israel Dostrovsky, Prof. David Moushine and Prof. Nelson Pilosof, Institute representative general for Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

## ARRIVALS

Dr. and Mrs. Sam Lawson, England, guests of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, to participate in the Ben-Gurion Centennial Celebrations.

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

# Sea captain sentenced to suspended jail term

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER  
HAIFA - Merchant Navy Captain Avner Gilad was yesterday sentenced to a two-year suspended jail term for forcing a black stowaway over the side of his ship, off the coast of Mozambique, in March 1982.

District Court Judge Amnon Carmi, who last week found Avner guilty of causing injury in aggravated circumstances and transporting a man in a dangerous vessel (an improvised raft), said he would have given him along jail term if there had been proof that the stowaway had drowned or come to grief. But as it could be assumed that he had reached shore safely, he did not consider jail necessary.

The ship's third officer, Ron Gur-finkel, 30, who was found guilty of abetting the captain in putting the man on the raft, was given a six

month suspended sentence for his role in the affair.

In his sentencing, Judge Carmi condemned Gilad's "lack of moral sensibility" but said that since he had taken steps to assure that the stowaway would reach a safe haven - by supplying him with a life-jacket and food, and dropping him close to shore - the trial and the conviction were punishment enough.

He contrasted Gilad's behaviour with that of the crew who had refused to take part in the action. Two ordinary seamen had testified to their anguish at the time, while the wife of a Yugoslav officer on board had reportedly rebuked the action, saying: "How can you, a people of refugees, do such a thing?"

Prosecutor Hanna Lapid had asked for a jail term for Gilad, "as a deterrent and warning to seamen who believed this was the way to handle stowaways."

Gilad, a 59 year old grandfather and member of Kibbutz Nahsholim, had an unblemished sea record dating from pre-state days. He reacted to the sentence with tears but would not comment to reporters.

His attorney, Shimon Tessler, said he was satisfied with the sentence though not with the conviction, and would consider appealing it. He said the absence of laws or regulations governing the problem of stowaways was the real culprit in the case. He hoped that the Transport Ministry would quickly promulgate such regulations and refrain from suing Gilad on disciplinary charges before a maritime court. He also hoped that Gilad would be allowed to continue to serve with the kibbutz-owned Tarshish shipping company.

## Belgium opens inquiry into arms sales to Iran

BRUSSELS (Reuters). - The Belgian government yesterday ordered an inquiry into reports that Belgium-made arms have been reaching Iran regularly since the start of its war with Iraq.

The independent daily *Le Soir*, in a report from Copenhagen, said it had evidence that the major Belgian arms maker Fabrique Nationale (FN) was "even unknowingly and indirectly, among the principal regular suppliers of Iran (with arms)."

This followed reports in other Belgian newspapers that Belgium was one of several western states, in addition to the U.S., that had broken an embargo on sales to Tehran.

Leo Tindemans dismissed the earlier reports, saying Belgium had sold only two sporting guns to Iran since the embargo was imposed in 1980.

*Le Soir* cited reports of Danish seamen, either first hand or through their trade union, an organization close to the Danish Communist Party.

An FN spokesman said that since the arms ban, his company had never knowingly sent military equipment to Iran, although it could not be certain that none of its clients had passed on FN arms to Tehran.

In Tunis, interior ministers from Arab countries adopted a resolution yesterday denouncing arms deals between the U.S., Israel and Iran.

## TV on, for now...

By GREER FAY CASHMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Television broadcasts resumed last night after nights of blackout and will continue without disruption for at least another fortnight. National Labour Court president Justice Menahem Goldberg yesterday supervised four hours of negotiations between the Broadcasting Authority management and television staff representatives, which ended with the signing of an interim agreement.

Under its terms, television will operate according to the rostered shifts which have been in force during the past two months, and staffers will be compensated for the loss of overtime earnings.

## UN resolution calls for international Mideast parley

By WALTER RUBY  
NEW YORK. - The UN General Assembly passed by a wide margin late Tuesday a resolution on the Palestinian question which included a call for an international conference on the Middle East.

The resolution passed 123-3 (the U.S., Israel, and Antigua voting against), with 19 nations abstaining. It included an amendment introduced by the Soviet Union endorsing "the setting-up of a preparatory committee within the framework of the Security Council with the participation of the Council's permanent members to take the necessary action to convene the (international) conference."

Israel sources pointed out that this year's resolution, in contrast to a 1985 resolution, contained no condemnation of either Israel or the U.S. According to a spokesman for the Israeli mission to the UN, "It is significant that to pass a resolution of this type, the Soviets and Arabs now feel it necessary to drop their condemnations of Israel."

## Tomatoes in, Weizman out

By ANDY COURT  
Acting Agriculture Minister Ezer Weizman resigned from his position yesterday over a decision to import tomatoes from Europe.

Weizman decided on Sunday not to import 100 tons of tomatoes which Agriculture Minister Aryeh Nehamkin, now on a 10-day tour of the U.S., had approved before he left the country. But Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, who has pushed for the imports in order to lower the price of tomatoes and thus of the cost of living index, called Nehamkin in the U.S. and convinced him to reaffirm his earlier decision, according to Agriculture Ministry spokesman Naftali Yaniv.

"Weizman did not consult with Nehamkin but made his own decision," Yaniv said. "Unfortunately there is still a shortage of tomatoes because of the rain."

The 100 tons, which should arrive from Spain or Portugal on Monday, represent about six per cent of Israel's weekly tomato consumption, Yaniv said. But Nehamkin has also given permission for another 200 tons to be imported later, if the shortage persists.

Yaniv's claim that Weizman never consulted Nehamkin contradicts Weizman's version of the affair, according to his spokesman, Aryeh Shumer. Shumer said that Nehamkin had spoken on the phone with Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-Oz, and Director-General Meir Ben Meir, and had agreed with Weizman's change of policy.



The three convicted murderers of Jerusalem taxi-driver Hamis Tatanji are escorted by police outside the Jerusalem District Court yesterday after sentencing. (See story page 1.) (Isaac Harari)

## Herzog's visit to Germany 'would show flag of renescent Jewish state'

By DVORAH GETZLER  
Post Knesset Reporter

Despite the complicated relationship between Israel and Germany, there were sound reasons for President Chaim Herzog's planned visit to Germany to go ahead, Minister-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman told the Knesset yesterday.

Replying for Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to five motions for the agenda on the forthcoming presidential visit, Weizman scored the logic of Likud MK Eliahu Ben-Elissar's argument that the time was not ripe for such a visit "in our generation."

That, said Weizman, was tantamount to saying that time would do its work, which was surely not what Ben-Elissar had meant. Quoting Herzog, he said "the future cannot be determined only by the past."

There was moral value, said the minister, in showing the flag of the renescent Jewish state in Germany, and in having the national anthem played there "even if it's played by the sons of Nazis," he said in answer to a comment by Amnon Linn (Alignment).

Herzog's visit, said Weizman, should serve to remind young Germans, and Israelis too, of the tragedy

## KNESSET ROUNDUP

of the Holocaust.

By a show-of-hands vote, the motions, three against the visit and two in favour, were removed from the agenda of the Knesset.

Demo ban defended

Only a thin line separates an uncontrolled demonstration from anarchy, said Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev.

Bar-Lev was replying to a motion by Tzviya's Gula Cohen who was protesting against the police decision, announced some days ago, to forbid demonstrations in Jerusalem's Old City.

The decision, said Bar-Lev, was intended to preserve democracy, not undermine it.

Far from restoring the Green Line in Jerusalem, as Cohen claimed, the decision was intended to preserve the unity of the city by preventing a recurrence of the anti-Arab violence that persisted for two weeks after the murder of yeshiva student Eliahu Amedi.

Answering another motion for the agenda on the work of the police,

Bar-Lev said the police budget and work-force size had been frozen for the past 10 years. Nevertheless, crime was decreasing. European countries register twice as much crime per capita as Israel, and the U.S. has five times more crime. Israel with Sweden and Japan, has one of the lowest crime rates in the world Bar-Lev said.

## Legal proposals

The Knesset considered several new proposals including an amendment that would sharply reduce the number of arrests made for 48 hours to facilitate police investigations and a bill that would permit dying persons to determine that their lives not be needlessly and painfully prolonged.

Another proposed amendment would enable Israel to prosecute persons for crimes against the Jewish people even if the crimes were not committed on enemy territory.

All three proposals are to go to the relevant committee for further discussion.

The Knesset will hold a full-scale debate - at some unspecified future time - to determine why no progress is being made on formulating a written constitution.

## Police question Zichroni

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Tel Aviv attorney Amnon Zichroni was questioned by the police in Ramle yesterday in connection with the PLO-Israeli leftist meeting which took place in Romania at the beginning of the month.

Zichroni, who was not called in as a "suspect," told Police Central District Investigations Officer, Nitzav-Mishne Sando Mazar, that he had been asked to accompany the leftist delegation to try and prevent any violation of the law. He refused to divulge the contents of his legal advice to the delegation, citing the confidentiality of the lawyer-client relationship.

Zichroni, who did not take part in the meetings with PLO officials, testified for ten minutes. He and Mazar discussed various aspects of the trip, and of the law prohibiting meetings with members of "terrorist organizations."

## INOUE

(Continued from Page One)

Inoue, a Democrat from Hawaii, is the first senior American political figure to visit Israel since the start of the Iranian arms scandal. He is also, according to Prime Minister Shamir, "one of Israel's greatest friends in the U.S."

Adds Inoue: "I am convinced that the highest officials of Israel are not only prepared but willing to cooperate to the fullest extent while of course taking account of Israel's security interests and sovereignty."

Inoue prefers to avoid the "Watergate" analogy. Watergate he says, involved "burglary, dirty tricks, and, most important, a cover-up. In this case, as of this moment, there seems to be no cover-up, the president seems to be forthcoming, he is not resisting the appointment of an investigator."

Asked whether the affair has damaged America's credibility in terms of the struggle against international terrorism, Inoue points an accusing finger at the media. "The press and the media in general have succeeded in turning this matter into a scandal of the monumental scale and as a result have harmed the credibility and integrity of my nation. If one takes a close look at headlines, says Inoue, one will often find that headlines - "with their innuendo and rumours" - are not substantiated by the smaller print that follows.

Inoue was instrumental in pushing through Congress the American allocation of \$250 million for the Lavi fighter project. Has he had second thoughts about this? "We're waiting for the General Accounting Office reports on the Lavi costs. From what I know, it's an aircraft that appears to be well suited to the mission needs of the IDF. I gather there are alternatives [that is, U.S. proposals for an alternative plane, such as a co-produced F-16], but the effects [of such an alternative] on Israel's economy have to be taken into account. "It's a good project."

## VIOLENS

The town of Ma'alot has received forty-two miniature violins from the U.S. to enable children aged 3-6 to learn to play on the instruments according to the Suzuki method.

We mourn the loss of our brother and uncle

## MOSHE MONSTA

The family in Jerusalem:  
Pinna Tsadika and sons  
Rafi and Sima Levy and daughters  
Shalom and Shula Soffer and sons  
Ezra and Levana Zengli and sons  
Eli and Grataia Monsta and sons  
Yehuda and Esther Ben-Yaacov and children  
Yitzhak and Esther Monsta  
Rabbi and Mrs. Avraham Monsta and family

Condolence visits at 91/1 Bar Kokhva.

We mourn the death of

## Eng. VICTOR A. SALKIND

Pioneer of the Dead Sea Works and first scientific adviser at the Israeli embassy in Washington.  
His funeral took place on December 2, 1986 at the Mt. of Olives cemetery, Jerusalem.

His relatives and friends

In deep sorrow we announce the death of our dear

## MICHA SITNER

who fell in the line of duty.

His mother: Ruth Sitner  
His wife and children:  
Ora, Ruti and Asa Sitner  
Families: Pick, Orgler and Cnaan!  
The funeral took place yesterday, December 3, 1986.

مکتبہ القرآن

(Continued from Page One)

Last August, for instance, three pro-Israeli Congressmen - Democrats Mel Levine of California, Larry Smith of Florida and Robert Torricelli of New Jersey, all members of the Foreign Affairs Committee - asked then prime minister Peres during a private meeting in Jerusalem about reports that Israel was shipping arms to Iran. According to the Congressmen, Peres assured them that those reports were "not true."

In recent days, there have been several reports in the U.S. news media suggesting a direct Israeli connection to the Contras.

The Washington Post, for example, reported that CIA director Casey personally asked Israel to help with the Contras in 1984, when the Congressional restrictions were first imposed. In order to please Casey and other pro-Israeli elements in the Reagan administration, Israel responded positively, according to the report.

The newspaper said that Israel had secretly funneled several million dollars to the Contras in 1984 at the behest of Casey. "That money may have come from previous Israeli arms sales to Iran," the report said, quoting sources in Washington.

U.S. News and World Report reported that the NSC was authorized in 1984 to oversee the establishment of a private network that would funnel military equipment and funds to the Contras. Lt. Col. North was placed in charge of that unit.

"But the key to the operation were the 'cutouts' - the labyrinth of retired military officers, former CIA pilots, Cuban exiles, Vietnam veterans for hire and scores of private firms," the report said. "Allies, such as Israel and Saudi Arabia, agreed to serve as suppliers of arms and funds."

The report went on to note that once the back-channel Contra network was in operation, "it became a useful device to undertake other secret missions deemed too politically risky" for the conventional structure. This also resulted in the U.S.-

## CONTRAS

Israeli arms deals with Iran, which were facilitated with the help of Saudi billionaire Adnan Khashoggi.

One U.S. official yesterday pointed to the "overlap" in U.S., Saudi and Israeli officials reportedly involved in the Iran arms deal and in the secret Contra support network. North, for example, was in charge of both.

Despite the latest Israeli denials, U.S. officials yesterday privately confirmed a report in *The Jerusalem Post* that North had reportedly told Justice Department investigators nearly two weeks ago that he had fully briefed Amiram Nir, adviser to the prime minister on counterterrorism, on the Contra connection.

On the basis of what North had said during those initial rounds of questioning, both U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese and later President Reagan strongly implied that Israel knew that profits from the Iran arms sales were going to a secret Swiss bank account controlled by forces opposed to the Sandinistas.

Israeli officials, obviously anxious to limit any damage in Congress, have appealed to Meese, Secretary of State George Shultz and other administration policymakers to back off from the original allegations of Israeli involvement with the Contras. The Israeli Ambassador in Washington, Meir Rosenne, was instructed to express Israel's deep concern directly to Meese, who first spoke of the Israeli link to the Contra funding scheme one week ago.

Meese, according to authoritative U.S. sources, has privately explained that his remarks at the news conference and Reagan's subsequent comments in a *Time* magazine interview were based on what Meese had personally heard from North during those initial rounds of questioning. Meese has said that North was the only U.S. official who had "precise" knowledge of all aspects of the arrangements.

Meanwhile, *The Washington Post*

yesterday reported that the profits from the Iran arms sales have been traced to a Swiss bank account managed by the CIA, in which the U.S. and Saudi governments also deposited \$250 million each to underwrite rebels fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Money from the account was also used to buy arms for the Contras.

"Money from the account in Switzerland was used to buy Soviet, Chinese and other arms from dealers in countries such as Israel, which were then shipped clandestinely to guerrillas in Afghanistan, and, more recently, to Contras in Nicaragua," the report said.

The Wall Street Journal yesterday reported that the Reagan administration tried to win the freedom of unnamed Israeli soldiers and the American hostages in Lebanon last May by offering a swap of some 300 Lebanese Shiite prisoners, a \$2 million ransom and a sale of military spare parts to Iran. "The deal collapsed when pro-Iranian militiamen in Lebanon refused to release the kidnapped Israeli soldiers," the report said. Israeli officials are said to have approved the release of the Shiite prisoners.

Vice President George Bush, in his first public statement on the Iran arms scandal, yesterday defended Reagan's dealings with Tehran and denied any knowledge of the transfer of money to the Contras.

"I'd like to say something about my role in all this. I was aware of our Iran initiative and I support the president's decision. I was not aware of and oppose any diversion of funds, any ransom payments, or any circumventions of the will of Congress," Bush said in a speech to the American Enterprise Institute public policy study group.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said in Paris yesterday he was horrified to learn that profits from the Iran arms sales went to the Contras, and contends that it never should have happened.



# Violence-ridden Punjab calls out army in bid to quell Sikh riots

CHANDIGARH — The beleaguered Punjab government called out the army yesterday to help police and paramilitary forces quell an explosion of Sikh separatist violence in the north Indian state.

Officials in the state capital Chandigarh said Governor S.S. Ray proclaimed large portions of eight of the state's 12 districts as "disturbed" and asked for troops to assist civil authorities.

The officials said troops have been alerted and would hold "flag marches," or shows of force, today in several troubled areas. They would assist state police and central paramilitary forces as directed by civil officials.

Once one of India's most prosperous states, the Punjab has been torn by violence sparked by extremists seeking an independent Sikh homeland called "Khalistan," the Land of the Pure.

Last Sunday, in the worst attack ever on

Hindus in the Sikh-dominated state, extremists killed 24 bus passengers in an incident that set off widespread anti-Sikh demonstrations and riots across northern India.

At least 646 people have died in extremist-related violence so far this year in Punjab, 15 of them this month.

The violence has been a political setback to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who has expended much political capital in an thus far unsuccessful attempt to pacify the state.

Government-run All India Radio said last night some 200 people, including some prominent dissident political figures, have been arrested by Punjab authorities in a continuing crackdown on extremist activities.

Use of troops in Punjab has been controversial since the December 1984 army assault on the Sikh's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in

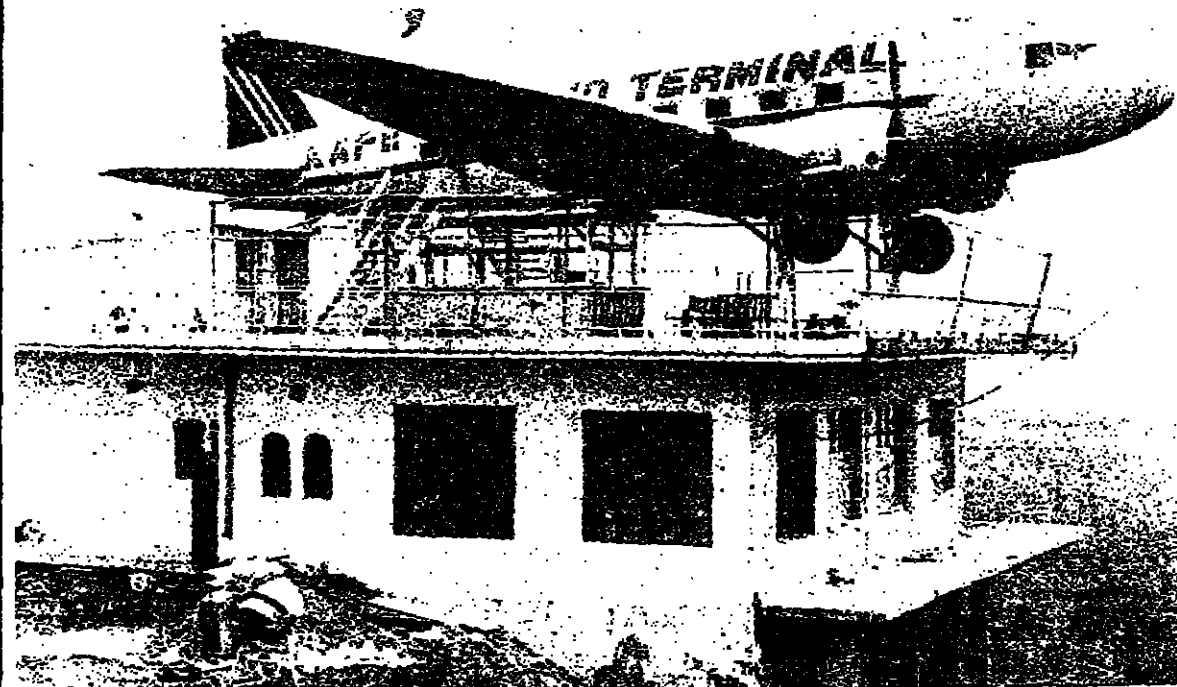
Amritsar, to flush out extremists sheltering in the sprawling complex. More than 1,000 people died in that assault.

In New Delhi, a curfew remained in effect in parts of the old city yesterday, a day after an estimated 16,000 Hindus battled Sikhs during a general strike called to protest Sikh attacks against Hindus in Punjab.

Delhi police said that they had made more than 1,600 arrests but added that the capital was peaceful yesterday after two days of disturbances.

Yesterday, a three-judge panel in New Delhi upheld the death sentences of three Sikhs convicted in the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and ordered they be hanged within 90 days unless the ruling is appealed.

Defendants Sarwant Singh, Balbir Singh and Kehar Singh were not present and no reason was given for their absence. (Reuter, AP)



This twin-engine Dakota DC-3, in working condition, sits on top of a two-storey building in the northern Greek village of Katakas, 40 km. south of Salonika. The plane was bought by Tassos Ioannides in 1963 from the Greek Air Force in 40 parts which he finished assembling earlier and now serves as a cafe. (Reuter telephoto)

## IN BRIEF

### Britain appeals Canberra verdict on spy book

SYDNEY (Reuter). — Britain gave notice of appeal yesterday against an Australian Supreme Court order to hand over top secret documents to a former M15 agent who is fighting a legal battle to have his memoirs published.

Court sources said the appeal to be heard today would further delay the three-week-old hearing into British attempts to prevent publication of the book by former British counter-espionage agent Peter Wright.

### Berlin escapee makes it

BERLIN (AP). — An East German man, dodging gunfire from Communist border troops, escaped over the Berlin wall to the West, but a companion was captured.

The incident on Tuesday night brought to 13 the number of East Germans who have escaped over their fortified border to West Berlin or West Germany in the past 26 days.

### Storm in N.E. America

NEW YORK (AP). — A storm packing gale-force winds and record rain battered the northeastern U.S. yesterday, stranding hundreds of Carolinian residents and causing \$7 million in damage.

Floodwaters covered the city dock in Annapolis, Maryland, and tides at Baltimore's Fort McHenry were one metre above normal at high tide.

Driving rain whipped by gusty winds stretched from the Carolinas into New England, dumping more than an inch of rain on the New York City area and Philadelphia.

### Two South Koreans to die for spying

SEOUL (AFP). — The supreme court yesterday upheld death sentences on two South Korean students and life imprisonment on two others for spying for North Korea.

The court also upheld jail terms ranging from three to 10 years on seven other students for aiding the four's espionage activities. The convicted students have no further right of appeal.

### Witch-doctors fight Aids

JOHANNESBURG (Reuter). — African witch-doctors are being enlisted in South Africa to help fight Aids, the South African Institute of Medical Research said yesterday.

About 200 Sangomas, the traditional name for the witch-doctors, will meet institute officials tomorrow.

### Murdoch bid in Sydney

SYDNEY (AFP). — Australia's second biggest media group, Herald and Weekly Times Limited (HWT), yesterday recommended acceptance of a \$1.2 billion takeover bid by international newspaper tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

HWT chairman John Dahlsen said the directors "propose, in the absence of a more attractive offer, to recommend to shareholders that they accept the proposed offer when it is submitted to shareholders."

IVORY. — Twenty-one elephant tusks and 14 ivory pieces, worth thousands of dollars in foreign exchange, and three people arrested in Dar es Salaam and Arusha.

## 'Begging for ties with Iran'

## 100,000 volunteers sent to war front

NICOSIA (AP). — Iran said it sent 100,000 volunteers to the war front yesterday, after parliament speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told them Iranian soldiers' victories made superpowers beg for ties with Tehran.

The volunteers of the Mohammed Corps, shouting "Death to America," gathered at the Azadi stadium here as white pigeons flew overhead and helicopters dropped flowers.

Tehran Radio said. "The Mohammed Corps is coming; East and West must know that the loud cries of death to America and death to Israel will never vanish in Moslem Iran."

Referring to the recent scandals in the U.S. over American arms sales to Iran, Rafsanjani told the crowd: "The greatest powers of the world and the most satanic enemies of mankind thought they were undefeatable... they knelt before you... held out their begging arms asking for your attention and ties. They hoped that you and your leaders would talk to them. This kind of victory is rare in history."

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## Both sides keep ground in Lebanon 'camp war'

BEIRUT (Reuter). — Palestinian and Shi'ite Moslem fighters kept up a continuous exchange of artillery fire yesterday as the two sides accused each other of indiscriminate attacks on civilians in Lebanon's "camps war."

But the fighting in Beirut and in the south Lebanese town of Magdoush appeared stalemated yesterday in the 10th day of steady violence with neither side gaining more significant ground.

Artillery manned by Palestinians in the Druse-held mountains south-east of the capital began bombarding several densely-packed suburbs at dawn yesterday, they said.

One Palestinian group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said a seven-week onslaught on Burj Al-Barajneh and a nine-day bombardment of Shatila had caused extensive damage to the teeming shantytowns.

"Nearly half of the Bourj Al-Barajneh camp and two-thirds of Shatila have been destroyed in the bombardments. The toll of casual-

ties in the two camps is estimated at 150 killed and more than 450 wounded," a DFLP statement said.

At least 500 people are reported to have been killed and about 1,000 injured in Amal-Palestinian feuding at five refugee camps in Beirut and south Lebanon over the past two months. Police said at least 42 people were killed yesterday.

Meanwhile, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat called on all Arab leaders yesterday to take a serious stand against attacks on Palestinians in Lebanon and Jerusalem.

Speaking about recent Jewish attacks on Arabs in Jerusalem, following the terrorist murder of a yeshiva student, Arafat said: "It was not a coincidence that our people in Jerusalem were facing atrocities by racist terrorist gangs at the same time our camps in Lebanon were exposed to similar acts."

Arafat also accused Syria of leading a "beastly" assault on the Palestinian camps and appealed to Arab leaders to intervene to halt the onslaught.

## Liberal Int'l may ban Austrian party

By ILONA HENRY  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent  
VIENNA. — The Austrian Freedom Party led by Dr. Joerg Haider faces possible suspension from the Liberal International when it meets in Paris next month.

The executive board of the International will consider the suspension recommendation made by a five-member delegation it dispatched to observe the Austrian elections. The observers, particularly those from Sweden and Holland, found that Haider's party is no longer "liberal," and recommended, after a three-to-two vote, that the Freedom Party be suspended.

According to the Swedish representative, Ingemund Haegg, "the report on the Freedom Party will be very negative."

The International decided to send

the delegation after Haider, 36, known for his sympathetic stance towards the Nazis, ousted his more moderate predecessor, Norbert Steger at the party convention in September, 1986. Freedom Party delegates to the convention were seen sporting Nazi emblems.

In an effort to stay his party's exclusion from the Liberal International, Haider approached Ernst Bangemann, leader of the Freiheitlich Partei Deutschlands, West Germany's liberal party. Bangemann assured him of continued support from the German sister-party.

BHOPAL. — Hundreds of children carrying placards denouncing Union Carbide Corp. joined protest marches in Bhopal, India, yesterday marking the second anniversary of a gas leak that killed 2,347 people.

## U.S. debt relief for Egypt said certain

CAIRO (AP). — Agreement by the U.S. to reduce Egypt's military debt burden lacks only President Reagan's signature, a high-level official says.

The official, interviewed by the government-owned weekly *Al-Mussawwar*, said the agreement probably would mean halving the 14 per cent interest due on outstanding U.S. military loans totalling \$4.55 billion.

Although the magazine did not name the official, the article was written by editor Makram Moham Ahmed, who met with President Mubarak on Tuesday. *Al-Mussawwar* is distributed on Thursday. But the Associated Press obtained an advance copy.

The U.S. has provided arms to Egypt since it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Until 1984, military aid was a mixture of loans and grants. The loans at interest rates averaging 14 per cent, since 1984. All U.S. arms have been supplied as grants.

Facing a serious economic crisis, Egypt has asked the U.S. for debt relief including a 50 per cent cut in interest rates and rescheduling of debts. A trip to Washington last month by Defence Minister Abdel-Halim Abu-Ghazala was part of the effort.

"Proposed solutions agreed with the American administration await President Reagan's signature. But it is our duty to wait until this intent takes the form of publicized decisions," the official told *Al-Mussawwar*.

Mubarak spoke to reporters on the subject on Tuesday, saying: "I heard that there is a (U.S.) decision about to be taken these days. I am waiting to see it officially."

Egypt owes foreign creditors about \$36 billion with annual servicing over the next three years of almost \$3 billion. The obligations coincide with a sharp drop in foreign exchange revenues from oil exports, tourism and remittances by expatriate workers.

Cairo is seeking to reschedule some foreign debts and has requested a standby credit of about \$1 billion from the International Monetary Fund.

### Mubarak to Paris

CAIRO (Reuter). — Egypt will receive strong political backing from France in its bid for International Monetary Fund support when President Hosni Mubarak visits Paris next week, French sources said yesterday.

Mubarak will have three days of talks and official engagements with President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac during the first state visit to France by an Egyptian monarch since the overthrow in 1952.

### U.S. diplomats to Sudan

WASHINGTON (AP). — The U.S. has been quietly returning diplomats to its embassy in the Sudan amid signs that the African nation is distancing itself from Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, a state department spokesman said yesterday. The embassy evacuated most diplomats and dependents from Khartoum last spring following the shooting of a communications officer, the sealing off of a thoroughfare in front of the mission, and concern that Sudan would form a military alliance with Libya.

## Genscher against sub sale to Saudis

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher yesterday came out in opposition to his government's proposed sale of submarines to Saudi Arabia, Israel Radio said.

Genscher met with fellow Liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) parliamentarians yesterday and told them the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia would complicate West Germany's relationships with other Arab countries to which it does not sell weapons, the radio said.

Genscher visited Israel with West German President Richard von Weizsacker in October, 1985, at which time Israeli leaders voiced their concern over his country's proposed arms deal with the Saudis.

Wladimir Struminski adds from Bonn: The German law does not ban arms export to Saudi Arabia — or to Israel — German experts told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday as the debate on arms exports policy was

getting into high gear.

The recent spate of discussion had been caused by the conservative Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss who demanded a relaxation of the restrictive German arms exports policy while on a visit to Saudi Arabia — a major potential buyer of German arms.

The Saudis are interested in the purchase of a number of German weapons systems, including a possible purchase of eight submarines.

Bonn's traditional policy is to ban arms exports to areas of international tension, but there is no legal ban on such exports, the experts said. Legal bans exist only on the exports of arms in a number of specific cases: on exports which would jeopardize West Germany's security, impair its international relations, enable a war of aggression or contravene an international arms embargo. None of these reasons applies to Saudi Ara-

bia, it was pointed out.

Official sources had indicated that the German authorities might be more lenient if "defensive" rather than "offensive" weapons were requested by Saudi Arabia.

The experts added that the German law did not preclude arms exports to Israel and pointed out that Israel had displayed "firm interest" in the purchase of a German submarine.

David Horowitz reports from London:

Britain's Vickers shipbuilding firm is finalizing details of a tender to build a \$1.5 billion submarine fleet for Saudi Arabia. Vickers is competing with firms from Germany, France, Sweden and Italy among others for the order, which would involve the supply of 10 subs.

Saudi Arabia has no submarines at the moment, and is looking to buy from scratch the most advanced fleet in the Arab world.

## Greek TV highlights 'Palestine Day'

ATHENS (JTA). — Palestine Day (29 November, when in 1947 the UN General Assembly voted on partition), was commemorated this year in Greece in a strange way.

In past years the press gave it wide coverage while the tightly-controlled government TV played down the affair. This year the opposite happened. The entire press ignored the day and the various activities that took place, while TV made the most of it.

Palestine Day coincided with the return from Israel of Economics Deputy Minister Panagiotis Roumelios, the first such high-ranking official to visit Israel since the pro-Arab socialist took over in 1981. On his return the Greek minister said that his visit was "within the framework of improving relations with Israel," while making it clear that recognition of Israel was still conditional on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The commemoration began with a press conference in a central Athens hotel, attended also by representatives of the various Greek political parties.

The one-day symposium on Sunday, organized by the Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity (Cids) and the UN Athens office, turned out to be simply a public relations play for the Palestinians. They had brought with them Knesset member Charlie Biton, Nazareth Deputy Mayor Adib Abu Rahmoun and Israeli communist writer Hans Lebrecht, presenting the three, especially on national TV that night, as if they represented a large segment of Israeli society.

The whole affair may have gone unnoticed had Greek TV not undertaken as wide a coverage as possible of the event. But the state TV not only transmitted these prominently, it also made an additional contribution of its own. On Saturday evening

the TV second channel showed a 15-minute propaganda film on the Palestinians.

Shot both in Greece and Israel, the film opened with an Arab family leaving their land, against the setting sun. A well-known Greek actor recited in Greek verses by the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish.

Although the recent tourist agreement between Israel and Greece is considered by some as proof of improved relations, the fact is that each time a new Israeli ambassador arrives in Greece, Premier Papandreu's government has a small surprise for him.

In December, 1981, three days after Yehezkel Barnea came to Greece, the Greek government elevated the PLO office to the same diplomatic level as Israel. Now, three days after the new Israeli ambassador Moshe Gilboa arrived, he was greeted by this public relations exercise on the state-run TV.

## War criminal's deportation hailed in U.S.

NEW YORK (JTA). — Leading Jewish organizations, Holocaust survivor groups and political figures have hailed the Supreme Court decision earlier this week not to hear the appeal of Nazi concentration camp commander Karl Linas against his deportation to the Soviet Union.

Linas was tried and sentenced to death in absentia in the Soviet Union in 1961 for participating in brutal mass murders of 12,000 Jews and others at a concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia.

He was charged by the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) with lying about his wartime activities when he arrived here from Germany in 1951, and a court ruled that he should be stripped of his U.S. citizenship and deported. The Soviet Union, where he faces the death sentence, is the only country that will accept him.

Brooklyn district attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, who as a New York Congresswoman sponsored legislation that allows deportation of Nazi war criminals, said: "Our country should no longer be a sanctuary for this brutal killer... I am particularly pleased by the Supreme Court's action because Linas claimed that the law I wrote to prevent the U.S.

from providing haven for Nazi killers, the so-called Holtzman amendment, was unconstitutional."

Charles Allen Jr., who began investigations of Linas in 1962 and interviewed him several times, said that Linas had even then "expressed no remorse" for his wartime activities. Allen said that Linas had then threatened him and his family with "liquidation" for being "a Jew Communist Bolshevik" and had shown anger and anxiety that the charges had surfaced in the media.

However, Allen said, Linas "talked fully, admitting he was a member of the guard unit" at the Tartu concentration camp, as well as a member of the Estonian National Army, a collaborator group.

The Supreme Court decision, hailed by the World Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith and other organizations, ends five years of legal battles by Linas against lower court decisions to deport him.

Wladimir Struminski adds:

The state prosecutor's office in Munich which deals with Nazi war criminals does not expect any further such trials in the city, the Munich daily *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* reported. The office is investigating three cases of murder of the mentally ill during the Nazi era, but it does not expect the investigations to lead to trials. Cases referred from Eastern Europe are often shelved through lack of hard evidence.

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## Move afoot to curtail Argentine trials

## Police chief gets 25 years in jail

BUENOS AIRES. — General Ramon Camps was sentenced in the federal court here to 25 years in prison and was stripped of his rank for repeated use of torture on prisoners when he was Buenos Aires police chief in 1976-1978.

Four other police officers were sentenced on the same charge and two were acquitted at the hearing, which was attended by some 300 people, including 100 reporters. The accused were not present.

Gen. Camps's deputy at the time of the crime, Commissioner General Miguel Angel Etchecoz, was given 25 years in prison, while General Pablo Ovidio Riviere, Gen. Camps's successor as police chief, was sentenced to 14 years and stripped of his rank.

Two police subordinates, medical doctor Jorge Bergez and Corporal Norberto Cozzani, were given six and four years in prison respectively.

The court acquitted commissioners Alberto Rouse and Hector Vides for insufficient evidence.

The civilian court found the three principal accused directly responsible for kidnappings, disappearances of prisoners, torture and murders at police headquarters, because they gave the orders for the crimes.

Meanwhile, President Raul Alfonsín's government after three years in power is looking for ways to curtail human rights trials against military officers, fearing the cases could recycle hate.

"The idea is that sometime they will have to come to an end," said Cesar Jaroslavsky, president of Alfonsín's Radical Party bloc in the House of Deputies. "The idea of absolute justice is not realistic."

Alfonsín wrote history in Latin America last year when courts convicted and jailed five of nine former military chiefs for responsibility for a

nationwide campaign of state terror from 1976 to 1983.

Key members of the government, fearing the issue of military involvement in human rights violations could be drawn out for years, are preparing a statute of limitations bill on the prosecution of officers for human rights violations.

The bill would be submitted to an extraordinary session of congress this month. Government sources said the limit for filing new human rights cases would be between 30 and 90 days after the bill became law.

Even before the statute of limitations bill is considered, the federal appeals court is expected to hand down a ruling that human rights groups fear could set ground rules shielding lower ranking officers from prosecution.

State Prosecutor Julio Strassera has sought a life sentence for retired General Camps and his top aide.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Institute for Research on  
Dutch Jewry

Tel Aviv University  
Institute for Research on  
Dutch Jewry

Invite the public to  
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in the Netherlands

Programme: Tel Aviv: December 7-10, Jerusalem: December 11, 1986.

Sunday Dec. 7 8:30 p.m. — Opening Session  
Chairman: Prof. S. Simonson  
Guests: Ambassador of the Netherlands, Mr. M.B. Gitter, Prof. J.C.H. Blom,  
Dr. J. Michman — "The Substitution of Dutch Jewry"  
Festschrift: Amsterdam, Tel Aviv University

Monday Dec. 8 — International Relations of the Portuguese Jews  
Lecturers: Prof. D. Katz, Mr. Miriam Bodan, Mr. Z. Locker, Prof. A. van der  
Hulst, Dr. R. Cohen, Dr. J. Kaplan, Prof. G. Ashkenazi, Prof. N. Rabinovitch,  
Tuesday Dec. 9 — Dutch Policy towards the Jews, Jewish Refugees, Holocaust Art  
in the Netherlands  
Lecturers: Prof. J. Israel, Mrs. O. Vlesing, Mrs. S. Leydesdorff, Mr. J. Cohen,  
Dr. D. Michman, Dr. H. Bosa, Prof. J. Basilean, Prof. J.C.H. Blom, Mrs. R.  
Weiss, Dr. J. Ashkenazi

Wednesday Dec. 10 — Hebrew Literature, Eretz Yisrael, the Churches and the  
Dutch Jews  
Lecturers: Mrs. J.A. Bombardier, Dr. Z. Shani, Prof. M. Eliv, Dr. N. Epirati,  
Mr. J. Van Gelderen, Dr. J. Simonson, Mr. J. Rabinovitch, Dr. E. Meir

All sessions Mon.-Wed. will be held in the Gilman Building at Tel Aviv University,  
beginning at 9 a.m.

Thursday Dec. 11 — Post-Symposium Workshop, Dutch Zionist Youth  
Thursdays

Organization — Hahatza  
Guests: Prof. S. Joffe, Director Institute of Jewish Studies, the Hebrew  
University.  
Lecturers: Mrs. R.M.M. Hoozeveld, Mr. Y. Benjamin.  
Meeting of genealogists: Chairman G. Yaari-Cohen  
9:30 a.m. at the Zahava and Eliahu Blum-Hall — Institute for Advanced Studies,  
the Hebrew University, Givat Ram campus.

For registration details and fees — call Peltona Congress — (03) 650862.



MK Hacohen lambasts Shas:

## Coalition won't fall over Miller

By DVORAH GETZLER

The High Court of Justice ruling ordering the Interior Ministry to register Reform convert Shoshana Miller as a Jew is likely to provoke "lots of coalition fireworks, but no big bomb that could blow the coalition apart," according to the Alignment's religious MK Rabbi Menachem Hacohen.

Hacohen was scathing about the Sephardi ultra-Orthodox Tora Guardians Party - Shas. They "never had it so good" as under the present national unity government of which they are members, he said. Shas leader Yitzhak Peretz is the interior minister who was defeated in court on Tuesday.

"They care only about their own cabbage patch, and they've enriched that enormously," Hacohen said. "They don't care at all about the state or about the future of the Jewish people as a whole."

"Assimilation doesn't worry them. They have their own institutions, their own very tight knit community, which has little connection with the rest of the state. As long as they can win for that group the advantages they seek, they will remain in the coalition."

Their religious leadership - the *hachmei hatorah* - will surely now turn around and say that the identity card with its registration of nationality is meaningless. And indeed, what marriage registrar contents himself with the ID card? I know that when I'm in doubt [Hacohen is licensed to

perform marriages], there are ways to check a person's *halachic bona fides*."

Hacohen's solution would be to cancel the nationality registration in the ID card. "If the reason is security considerations, it's anachronistic," he said. He dismissed a claim put forward on Tuesday by Morasha's Avraham Verdiger that in the Jewish state one should take pride in being registered as a Jew. "An ID card is no place for a demonstration of national pride," according to Hacohen.

In response to a suggestion that the religious lobby in the Knesset would now rally its forces to amend the Law of Return so that *halachic* criteria become paramount in deciding who is a Jew, Hacohen said: "There is no religious lobby! They're all split. The Aguda knows such an attempt would endanger the coalition. Shas wouldn't want it because the amendment would mean handing a victory to the proposal's champions, the Lubavitch movement, who are their sworn enemies."

"The National Religious Party scarcely exists, and it too wouldn't want the coalition to fall. And Morasha - the old Poalei Agudat Yisrael, which is really Habad [the Lubavitch movement] - has no true backing among the electorate. Morasha doesn't want elections either."

"Of course, they will all raise the issue. They will push the government to the brink, maybe, but they won't push it over. And they will use

this dummy crisis to wring some further benefits, money, or some minor law."

"I see the main danger coming perhaps from what Ariel Sharon may try to do to exploit the situation. Shas is under his protection in the government, he and Peretz are very close. It was Peretz who intervened when Shimon Peres wanted to oust Sharon from the cabinet."

Hacohen sees Peretz as a tragic figure, torn between the moderate Sephardi world in which he grew up, and the demands of the increasingly extremist religious and nationalistic world in which Shas is grounded.

"Shas may be more dangerous ultimately than Meir Kahane's Kach Party," he warned, citing the many newly observant voters to whom Shas appeals. "They are violently nationalistic."

"The entire ultra-Orthodox camp has moved sharply to the right. Perhaps in an endeavour to compensate for their not doing army service, they choose this way of showing their loyalty to the state somehow."

Hacohen's advice to the two major parties would be to issue a joint declaration that they will not enter any future coalition with the non-Zionist parties - the Communists and the Progressive List for Peace on the left, and Aguda and Shas on the right.

But he does not believe that such a declaration will be forthcoming.

"Even if Labour did it alone, that would be something," he said wistfully. "But it probably won't."



The Italian Interior Minister, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro (left), views a bomb disposal robot at Border Police headquarters in Lod yesterday.

## Masorti cheer court ruling

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israel's Masorti (Conservative) Movement welcomes the High Court of Justice ruling that Reform converts must be registered as Jews by the Interior Ministry even if the movement itself recognizes the validity only of some Reform conversions.

Rabbi Pinchas Spectre, director of the Masorti Movement, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that there are three Conservative converts in Israel who have been waiting for the High Court verdict and will now also be registered as Jews.

As for Reform conversions, Spectre said his movement examines each on its merits.

"If it is performed according to *halacha*, then we are happy with it," he said. If *milah* (circumcision) or *tevilah* (ritual immersion) are lacking, said Spectre, then they would "encourage the person to complete the conversion according to *halacha*." If a woman does not "complete" the process the Conservative Movement would not regard her children as Jews.

Spectre said that *halacha* should not be the sole criterion for acceptance in Israel. "It is not just a *halachic* question, but a peoplehood question." Asked if he implied that there was a Jewish people outside of *halacha*, Spectre said that "speaking for myself, I feel we should recognize a Jewish people and a *halachic* Jewish people."

The movement had not ruled on the question of performing marriages involving Reform converts, said Spectre, but in any case Conservative rabbis are not allowed to conduct marriages in Israel.

## Ethiopians fight for immigrant status

The High Court of Justice on Tuesday issued an order nisi requiring the Interior Ministry to explain within 10 days why it should not give immigrant certificates. Israel citizenship and status as Jews to two recent immigrants from Ethiopia. A brother of the two, who was born to the same parents, had earlier been granted all these rights.

The petitioners, Elias and Vandagnano N., do not want their family name published because they fear it may hurt their parents' chances of emigrating to Israel. Elias came here two months ago, while his brother arrived during "Operation Moses." Their lawyer, Michael Corinadi, said that both were born to Jewish parents.

Elias was admitted to the Nazareth absorption centre, but after three weeks was asked to leave on instructions from the Interior Ministry, which disputed his Jewishness.

Vandagnano did receive immigrant status but under the rubric of "nationality" in his identity card the words "not registered" were entered. He refused to accept the card. Corinadi pointed out that another brother of the plaintiff had immigrated in 1983 and had been fully registered.

The three brothers also have a sister who recently immigrated. All four brought witnesses who testified to their Jewishness to Interior Ministry officials, who rejected their claims.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has announced that it has set up a special rabbinical court in conjunction with the chief rabbinates to deal with problematic cases of personal status among Ethiopian immigrants. (Itim)

## Soviet emigres blast new exit visa rules

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN

Recently promulgated Soviet regulations purporting to liberalize Jewish emigration policy were denounced yesterday by the Public Council for Soviet Jewry in Tel Aviv and the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre in Jerusalem.

The bodies, the principal Israeli organizations advocating the cause of Soviet Jewry, agreed that the regulations will tighten the screws on most of the 400,000 Soviet Jews seeking exit visas.

The Information Centre, a more radical body than the Public Council, also faulted the Israeli government for its silence over the regulations.

Former Prisoners of Zion Yosef Mendelevich and Natan Sharansky made this criticism at a press conference at Beit Agon attended by some 40 journalists, mostly foreign correspondents.

Sharansky said he has been invited to the U.S. to take part in Human Rights Day assemblies on December 10. He asserted that he will urge the U.S. to censure the Soviets for toughening their stand on Soviet Jewish emigration.

Dr. Yuri Stern and Mendelevich, respectively spokesman and chairman of the Information Centre, said the new regulations which take effect on January 1 aim to make family reunification, narrowly defined, the sole grounds for allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate.

But even those grounds are to be subject to considerations such as "state security," "the public interest," "morality," and "demands

of the family members remaining in the USSR."

Because the authorities can interpret state security and the other terms as "broadly" and "ridiculously" as they like, even Jews who do have immediate family abroad have no assurance that they or their children will ever get out.

Mendelevich attacked the Israeli government for its "fearful" approach in the issuing of passports to Soviet Jews who request them. He read from a letter sent by the Interior Ministry to the Haifa lawyer of the Chernobylsky family in the USSR, which explained:

"The issuance of [such] passports... at this time will impair the delicate contacts between Israel and the USSR."

According to the new regulations, the Public Council statement said, family reunification will only be permitted immediate family members (parents, children, spouses, brothers and sisters). Only if the applicant has no immediate family in the Soviet Union will emigration requests be considered for reunification with more distant family members.

One of the regulations states that those applying for an exit visa will receive a "yes" or "no" answer within six months. A fresh application may not be made for another six months.

Public Council director Chaim Chester said it was clear that the publication of the new regulations was connected with the follow-up conference to the Helsinki accords, now under way in Vienna.

## BASKETBALL

## Maccabi launch campaign

By DON GOULD

TEL AVIV. - The winter ought to begin heating up tonight. It's a winter that will lead, it is hoped, to a spring celebration in Lausanne next April when the European Cup basketball final takes place.

Maccabi Tel Aviv have every reason to feel satisfied with the structure of the final pool. In sparkling off their 11th successive campaign, they should not disappoint, when they entertain the Yugoslav champions Zadar at Yad Elyahu at 8:30 tonight.

According to Dr. Zoran Petrovitch, the most formidable player in Yugoslav basketball, it was only an "inexplicable lapse" on the part of his club Cibona Zagreb which allowed unfancied Zadar to clinch

their first national Yugoslav title. Although the Yugoslav clubs rarely disappoint in terms of attractive quality play, given home court advantage, there will be few excuses if Maccabi fail to get their campaign for this year's Cup off to a fine start.

Provided there is television at all, the game will be screened live and there will also be direct radio commentary from Yad Elyahu.

An injury-plagued Zadar arrived last night without a number of key players, openly admitting they are rank outsiders and do not have much hope of winning tonight.

"If Johnson, Magee, Berkowitz and Jamchee don't play, I wouldn't complain one little bit," Zadar's amiable coach Josp Gjergja said wryly. One thing he has going for him is his intimate knowledge of Israeli basketball. He has been here nine times in the past with other clubs and the national team as a player, and knows much about Maccabi's style of play.

Zadar expected starters: 8. Asim Matkovic, 28, 1.87m; 10. Dusanovic Ruzovic, 25, 2.06m; 11. Stojanovic Vukobratovic, 22, 2.15m; 12. Ilicic Obed, 25, 1.84m; 15. Draskovic Slavko, 31, 1.96m (capt.)

Coach Josp Gjergja

## CRICKET

## Australia hold out to draw

PERTH, Australia (Reuter). - Allan Border expressed surprise at rival captain Mike Gatting's tactics after Australia held out to draw the second cricket Test against England at the Waca ground yesterday.

Needing to bat through the final day to save the game - the 391 runs needed for victory were never a realistic target - Australia were 197 for four when, with 10 overs left, Gatting accepted England could no longer win.

The result means England take a 1-0 lead into the third Test of the five-match series starting in Adelaide on December 12.

Border's bafflement was at Gatting's decision not to make Australia begin their second innings before the close on Tuesday, instead delaying his declaration until first thing yesterday morning.

"I was surprised he didn't declare a half an hour before close last night," Border said. "I suppose he thought he was one up and didn't want to take any risks."

"But that 28-minute period could have seen some Australian batsmen fall."

Gatting, understandably, disagreed. "I don't think we've let Australia off the hook in any way. We are still one up in the series and they had to battle to survive today."

Border said, despite some improvement on Tuesday, the principal problem facing Australia was their bowling.

He said he would be talking to chairman of selectors Laurie Sawle later about the composition of the team for Adelaide. "Peter Shep must be considered and we will have to think long and hard about the new-ball bowlers."

" Geoff Lawson is not playing in the Sheffield Shield against Queensland in Brisbane because of his back injury and we will have to see how he comes up out of that."

## NBA

## Bullets kill Celts' streak

NEW YORK (AP). - There was no parquet floor, no yellow paint on the walls, no championship banners hanging from the ceiling and few of the fans were as rabid as the ones the Celtics are used to at Boston Garden.

But the 48 consecutive home victories the Celtics compiled since last December 10 included three victories at the Hartford Civic Centre in Hartford, Connecticut, and that was where the streak came to an end Tuesday night.

"This ended our streak even though we weren't at the Garden," Celtics coach K.C. Jones said after the Washington Bullets beat

Boston 117-109.

Suns 124, Knicks 100. Phoenix spoiled the head coaching debut of Bob Hill as Larry Nance scored 25 points and rookie Rafael Addison had 12 of his 14 in the third period.

Bulls 115, Sonics 109. NBA scoring leader Michael Jordan scored 40 points, including five threes at the end of regulation and overtime, leading Chicago to a win in overtime. Jordan's rebound layup and free throw with 34 seconds remaining in regulation forced the overtime.

In other NBA action Tuesday night, it was the Hawks 116, Nuggets 106; Bucks 95, Pacers 84; Cavaliers 115, Spurs 102; Warriors 104, Rockets 99; Trail Blazers 134, Clippers 99; and Mavericks 127, Kings 124.

## SOCCER Mystery resignations

By PAUL KOHN

TEL AVIV. - Moshe Sinal, of Hapoel Tel Aviv, a stalwart in the midfield in the national team for the past five years, announced last night that he wanted to leave the national team squad.

Sinal, aged 25, has won 27 international caps. He gave no reason for wanting to leave the squad, except to

deny that it had anything to do with his midlife partner, Uri Malmilian, "with whom I am friends both on and off the field."

Zahi Armeli, the Maccabi Haifa striker, had earlier made a similar request that he should not be included in future training sessions of the national team.

## NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	347	220
N.Y. Jets	10	3	0	.769	320	263
Miami	6	7	0	.462	333	313
Buffalo	4	7	0	.368	249	287
Indianapolis	4	13	0	.231	147	339

CENTRAL

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cleveland	9	4	0	.692	289	273
Cincinnati	8	5	0	.615	382	299
Pittsburgh	4	9	0	.308	216	271
Houston	3	10	0	.231	235	283

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	10	3	0	.769	321	219
L.A. Raiders	8	5	0	.615	382	299
Kansas City	7	6	0	.538	377	300
Seattle	7	6	0	.538	254	253
San Diego	3	10	0	.231	267	315

NATIONAL CONFERENCE EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	11	2	0	.846	265	191
Washington	11	2	0	.846	316	227
Dallas	11	2	0	.846	305	261
Philadelphia	4	6	0	.400	287	260
St. Louis	3	10	0	.231	180	297

CENTRAL

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	11	2	0	.846	364	190
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	343	227
Detroit	5	8	0	.385	281	263
Green Bay	3	10	0	.231	201	263
Tampa Bay	2	11	0	.154	201	383

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	275	196
San Francisco	7	5	1	.583	297	199
New Orleans	6	6	1	.500	228	234
Akron	6	6	1	.500	228	234

## SPORTOTO

By PAUL KOHN

TEL AVIV. - Seven football pool players managed the feat of marking all correct lines of 14 results on the Sportoto coupon last week, and each of them is due to collect NIS 71,000.

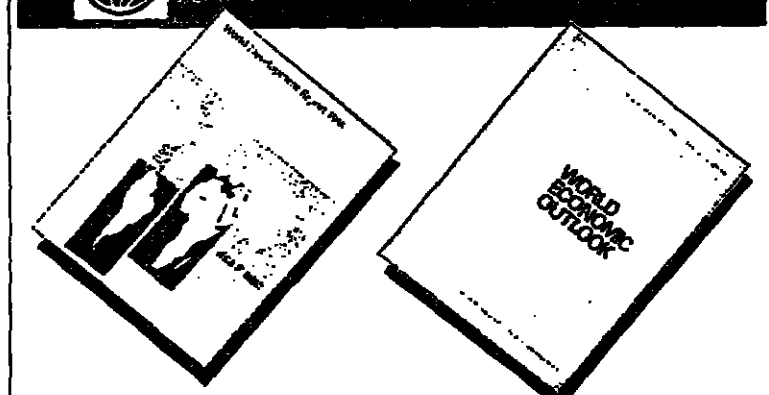
Thirteen results right won NIS 1,000, twelve got NIS 90, eleven earned NIS 12 and even ten results got a dividend of NIS 2.40.

Sportoto announced a turnover of NIS 2.7 million last week and a minimum total payout of NIS 1.1 million after this weekend's games.

Single Permits

Tip	Line	Permit	1X
Tip. Led v Mac. Yarne	1	1	1X
Mac. Juffa v Bet. Netanya	1	1	1
Jerusalem v Bet. TA	1	1	1
Tip. K. Sar v Shikmona	1	1	1
Tip. TA v Bet. J'm	1	1	1X2
Mac. TA v Mac. Haifa	1	1	1X2
Mac. Netanya v E. Yehuda	1	1	1X
Tip. PT v Mac. PT	1	1	1
Therion v Tip. Holon	1	1	1
Tip. Acre v Tip. Hadera	1	1	1X
Tip. J'm v Bet. Shimon	1	1	1
Tip. Asdod v Yehud	1	1	1X
Tip. Ashdod v Dman	1	1	1X

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'Only a few rotten apples in barrel'

## Jewish 'libel' comments on Boesky scandal termed not representative

By WALTER RUBY

NEW YORK. - A prominent American Jewish leader has denounced as "group libel" comments by several leading American rabbis last week that the Ivan Boesky insider trading scandal and the New York City municipal corruption trials involving Jewish politicians are evidence of an ethical failure within the Jewish community.

Kenneth J. Bialkin said that remarks by three leading rabbis - Walter Wuerzberger (Orthodox), Wolf Kelman (Conservative), and Alexander Schindler (Reform) - to *The Jerusalem Post* citing the Boesky scandal as evidence of corruption in Jewish morality, "represent the kind of remarks we would term anti-Semitic if they came from non-Jews." Bialkin is a prominent New York corporate attorney and the immediate past-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

According to Bialkin: "Of course we feel badly when any Jew gets into trouble with the law. But to say that this reflects a sickness or moral failing in a whole community is a terrible exaggeration, which only plays into the hands of...our enemies. There is a certain amount of anti-Semitism in the U.S., and there are people who would use any excesses in the community as grounds to attack it."

Noting that Boesky and others so far apprehended by the Securities and Exchange Commission for illegally using inside information to make millions on the stock market were all Jewish, Bialkin said: "There are many bright and successful Jews in the financial community. Most of them are honest. If there are a few rotten apples in the barrel, that doesn't spoil the whole barrel. It certainly doesn't indicate a pervasive moral failing in the Jewish community."

"Jews account for between 2 and 3

per cent of the population, but I doubt very much whether they represent 2 to 3 per cent of the prison population," he said.

Bialkin was asked about the rabbi's contention that the tendency of Jewish organizations to accord honours to the wealthy has contributed to a moral coarseness in Jewish life.

"I don't think it is fair to criticize the Jewish Theological Seminary for honouring Boesky, who contributed several million dollars to the school's library. They had no way of knowing he was a criminal."

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# Timely reminder of the past

A WALL calendar published in West Germany features 13 lithographs and photos of Berlin's best known synagogues. It is the work of Berlin photographer and producer Nicola Galliner.

In his introduction, Heinz Galinski, the president of the city's Jewish community, which today only numbers about 6,200, points to the 300 years of Jewish history in his city the calendar recalls. "Turning the pages of the calendar, many will recognize synagogues where they worshipped in their youth, when the Jewish community of Berlin had more than 170,000 members," he writes.

All the synagogues pictured were damaged in various degrees during the Kristallnacht excesses of November 9-10, 1938. It is surprising, however, to see that fully half of them were finally completely destroyed by Allied bombs during World War II.

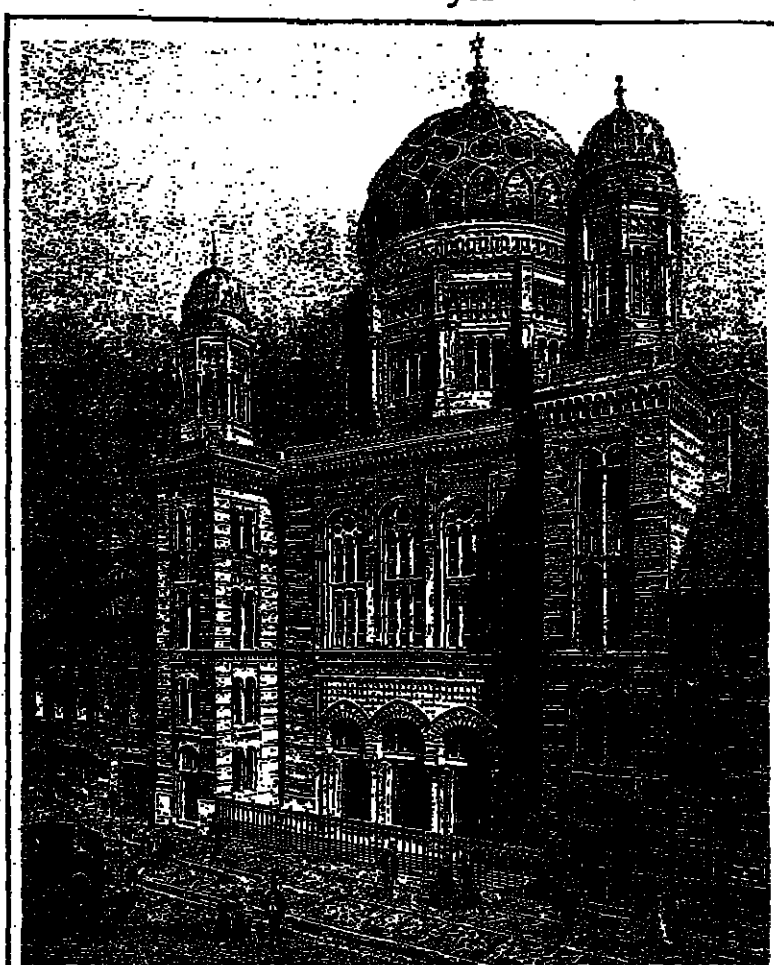
Each picture is accompanied by a brief note giving the date the synagogue was built, its fate during the Nazi period and the war—and its post-war history, if any.

The oldest synagogue was that at Heiderstrasse 4, which was inaugurated in 1714, renovated in 1856 and destroyed in the war. Nothing remains of it today.

There is an engraving of the imposing exterior of the Oranienburger Street synagogue and a lithograph of its interior. Built in 1866, the building was damaged in 1938 and destroyed from the air in 1943. Its entrance hall with cupola is preserved today and there are plans for the rebuilding of the synagogue.

The data for the Luetzowstrasse

Ernie Meyer



Engraving of the Oranienburger Street synagogue exterior.

synagogue are similar: built in 1898, damaged in 1938, destroyed in 1943. The ruin was pulled down in 1954 and an office building erected on the site.

Rykestrasse 53: built in 1904, damaged in 1938, survived the war and renovated and rededicated as Peace Temple in 1953. Serves today as synagogue of the Jewish community in East Berlin.

Pestalozzistrasse: built 1912, damaged in 1938 and rededicated in 1947. Serves today as the liberal (Reform) synagogue of the West Berlin community. Completely renovated in 1986.

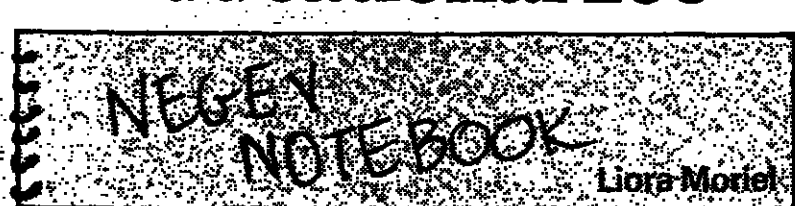
The Fasanenstrasse synagogue was built in 1912, burnt out in 1938 and completely destroyed during the war. In 1959 the offices of the Jewish community were erected on the plot.

The youth wing of the Kottbusser Ufer synagogue is what survives today. The main building was inaugurated in 1916, damaged in 1938, suffered bomb damage during the war and was finally pulled down in 1959. The building of the youth wing was renovated and serves today as the conservative synagogue of Berlin.

The most modern of the synagogues, in the Prinzregentenstrasse was only built in 1930 but burnt out completely in the Kristallnacht, eight years later. The ruin was pulled down in 1958 and residential buildings put up on the plot. There is a small memorial plaque on one of these buildings.

The calendar costs DM29.80 and is available from Samson Publishers, P.O. B 330 344, 1000 Berlin 33.

## Educational zoo



Liora Moriel

WHEN MANIA Urieli came to Beersheba with her husband Peretz in 1954, she found no ready venue for her love of animals in what was then a tiny town surrounded by sandy expanses. So she set up her own small zoo on the grounds of the school run by her husband for maladjusted youngsters.

"I love animals and for him, nature and agriculture are the means for rehabilitating these children," she recalled just after the new zoological gardens opened in town last month. "The educational little zoo in Tel Aviv by Yehoshua Margolin inspired me."

Urieli said that she began a small zoo in a corner of the special school, where she was the "nature" teacher. She and her husband shared the concept that an aggressive child, given a gentle way of self-expression such as caring for animals, will become less aggressive.

"A child who has the courage to handle a snake and sees children from 'good' homes afraid, gets a positive charge that results in a better self-image. Thus, the child learns a lot more than in a normal school situation," said Urieli.

Urieli, 74, and her husband, have devoted their lives to caring for other people's children—and animals. Her love for both resulted in the zoo's constant expansion. "I began to realize that this was getting to be too big for a school zoo and could serve another purpose, so we began to open on Shabbat for the general public."

By the Seventies, the zoo had grown too big for the room in which it was housed. Nobody thought of branching out until the subject of space came up at a chance meeting with Irene Kreitzman. "We needed heaters for the animals and someone

brought her to see me because they thought she could help. She was impressed. 'It's very nice, but you haven't got any space,' she said. I answered: 'That's right, because I haven't got any money.' She came for coffee and in the end she gave us \$14,000. Without her help—her husband is chairman of the British Friends of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev—we wouldn't have built a big room for the animals. They really deserve many thanks."



Prof. Reuven Yagil (left) and Haim Sivan with friend at the Beersheba Zoological Garden.

Another pair of donors, Emmauel and Sarah Racine, gave \$10,000. "So we were able to expand and put up proper signs. In the final year of operations there, we had 15,000 visitors!"

HAIM SIVAN, who took over the little zoo in 1979 when Urieli retired,

managed to get the municipality to pay his salary and become more involved in and responsible for the place, which was becoming, with Sivan's proselytizing, a city project.

"The first thing I did, with Mania, was put on a big exhibition to show the people of Beersheba what we have and they came enthusiastically," he recalled. When Sivan came, a larger zoo was still on the drawing board. But even upon its completion, the place was too small for Sivan's concept of a city zoological garden with educational tour. "We went to City Hall to ask for a plot of land on the school grounds, but this proved impossible for bureaucratic reasons."

For several years, Sivan had eyed the dilapidated but spacious quarters of the Miflat vocational school sandwiched between the city dump and the graveyard. As soon as the school finally closed last year, Sivan got the keys and, with a team of volunteers,

His love of the place is infectious. Last summer, he brought me to the edge of the desert to tell me about the planned zoo which was then a series of run-down asbestos buildings and an overgrown yard. A few youngsters and two of his research assistants were working on cages and on clearing the knotty bushes. There was a friendly spirit, people who loved what they were doing and believed in it, but for an outsider the place didn't hold much hope for the future.

NOW, a week after it opened ("On Shabbat we had 900 people! We didn't even have that many tickets for sale, the place was overrun"), Sivan and Yagil know that their endurance has paid off. The cages are attractive, the animals healthy, the signs proliferating. Another dream come true.

"In this age, people think there is no more volunteering, but it's not true, if you give them something to work for. People have come and done what they could—we even had a couple of vets working here. Most of what you see has been built by volunteers of all ages," said Yagil.

The idea is for the zoo to become an educational, fun experience for all. "Last summer, we had a workshop for the blind and they could touch the scales of fish in the aquarium, be pecked by falcons, feel a boa constrictor on their neck," said Yagil.

There are now 18 aquariums of tropical fish and once money comes in, marine fish will also be introduced. There is an aviary, monkeys and baboons, camels, a donkey, some deer and ibex, a jungle cat, a water-bird pond, a snake room and more—but the biggest attraction is a raven who talks: he cries "rega" (wait-a-minute) and whistles.

There is a small entrance fee, which is used to cover the cost of the animals' food as the municipality finances only the salaries of Sivan and two assistants.

Mania Urieli said that people want to name the zoological garden after her, but she has other plans. "We need money. I think the place should be named in honour of anybody who gives us enough money to really get going."



DAVID HOROVITZ

## West End goal for future impresario

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* cost \$4.5 million to stage, which makes Yael O'Dwyer's *Abigail* in the Park a snip at \$200,000. O'Dwyer, however, is finding it rather more difficult than Lloyd Webber to round up the requisite funds. *Abigail* being her first attempt to produce a West End play.

Israeli-born singer/actress O'Dwyer, vivacious and articulate, has graduated to production via the IDF entertainment corps, numerous lead roles in Israeli plays, including *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and regular stage appearances in both London and New York.

She was Elvis's girlfriend in a musical homage to the King at London's Astoria Theatre, and lead comedienne and singer in *Oh Boy and Let's Rock*—TV rock and roll revivals on either side of the Atlantic. The seeds for *Abigail* were sown last year when O'Dwyer (whose ex-husband is Irish, if you're wondering about the surname) wowed them off-Broadway in her one-woman show *Dear Woody Allen*, in which a girl fan wrote letters seeking psychiatric help to the little bespectacled wonder.

PROVIDED she can raise the cash—



Yael O'Dwyer: from IDF entertainment corps to London's theatreland.

and the signs are good *Abigail* will open in April: casting is being finalized now, and the three women, four men and five musicians are scheduled to begin rehearsals in February.

O'Dwyer describes the play as "off the wall," and hopes it will become a cult hit in the grand tradition of the movie *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. It is, she says, "a musical satire of America as the epitome of modern society, a musical that says something, for a change." The play, she says, "highlights society's loss of innocence and romance, and shows that the little man has no control of his destiny."

Making these undoubtedly worthy points are the aforementioned *Abigail*, a beautiful, keep-fit-mad actress who goes by the vaguely familiar name of Janice Honda, and Libby, a black Moroccan whose face is partially obscured by scaffolding and

who somehow symbolizes the Statue of Liberty.

O'Dwyer readily admits that it's all a bit difficult to visualize, but assures me that all will be made clear on opening night. She says she was inspired to write the play after spending two years in New York, "a vibrant city, but not a place I'd like to live in permanently." Still, she hopes *Abigail* will prove a hit in London and will eventually make it to Broadway as well.

For the moment, O'Dwyer is dashing around town, assembling a cast, rustling up cash, and learning the ropes for her first attempt at self-production.

The interview ended with me little the wiser as regards the play—but definitely fascinated. And if, on passing the Astoria in April, I happen to notice that *Abigail* is holding court in the park, I shall certainly take a stroll in her direction and give ear.

## The art of influencing people

THERE AND THEN  
Sraya Shapiro

years later, though everyone took a different course in his post-graduate life.

Or, perhaps, not so strange, after all. THE political animal bunts in packs. Golda Meir used to fall back on "camaraderie" whenever personal enmities threatened the smooth exercise of government. "Politics is the art of influencing people: and nobody can influence alone. People of the same ilk tend to combine forces to change things," Herlitz asserts.

She has served her people and her party in many capacities: as an ATS officer in the Second World War, in international relations for Mapai, as a Tel Aviv municipal councillor, and 25 years in Israel's foreign service. "During my eight years in New York, as consul for political affairs, the Sinai campaign broke out." Both the public and the administration were caught unawares. Explaining to the Americans what had prompted Israel to take arms alongside the British and French was no mean task. New York, incidentally, is "the most fascinating place I have served—one feels it is the centre of the world."

In 1967, during the Six Day War, Herlitz, as Israel's ambassador in Copenhagen had a hard time convincing the Danes of the mortal dangers threatening Israel.

"Yitzhak Navon, Adi Jaffe and myself were the ad hoc committee. Strange, we found ourselves coming together again in the Knesset, many

courageously saved their Jewish community from Hitler. But their philosophy is 'small is beautiful.' At the end of the Second World War, they refused Churchill's offer to annex the territories which the Germans had taken from them in the nineteenth century—shunning the onus of ruling over a Germanized population. It was the Danish Prime Minister who hit on the definition of 'defendable'—agreed and secure boundaries—which ultimately was incorporated into the UN 242 Resolution." His solution seemed fair to everybody. Esther Herlitz herself would not mind having a Palestinian state alongside Israel, though "this seems impossible at the moment."

Tired of trying to influence foreigners, she decided one day to try and influence her fellow citizens. To enter politics, she had to give up her foreign ministry job. "The stipulation that civil servants must resign a hundred days before polling date was apparently transferred to our laws from the British, by Moshe Rosetti, the first Knesset Clerk. But a small country like ours cannot afford to squander its talent, and many capable people would be reluctant to abandon a secure job for an uncertain place on a party's list." In Scandinavia, Herlitz says, there is no such provision.

Her present job is to oversee the international harp competition and the tri-annual international choirs meet, the "Zimriya". A non-political job?—"I wonder how you would compose an international jury acceptable to all four schools of harp; the protagonists of each trend hardly concede the existence of the others."

## TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

### TELEVISION

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## DEAD SEA, EILAT AND JERUSALEM

# Where the sun shines best

Who knows, gambling casinos may be on the horizon at the Dead Sea, The Post's Abraham Rabinovich reports.

THE SUN shines east, the sun shines west, but Moshe Shamir, chairman of the Tamar Regional Council, knows where the sun shines best — 400 metres under sea level.

That is where Shamir lives — at Kibbutz Ein Gedi on the shores of the Dead Sea. The sun that shines on him and his neighbours is not the sun that shines on the rest of us who live above sea level.

"If I go to a Tel Aviv beach, I'm burnt and peeling after a couple of hours," he said in a recent interview. "This never happens at the Dead Sea."

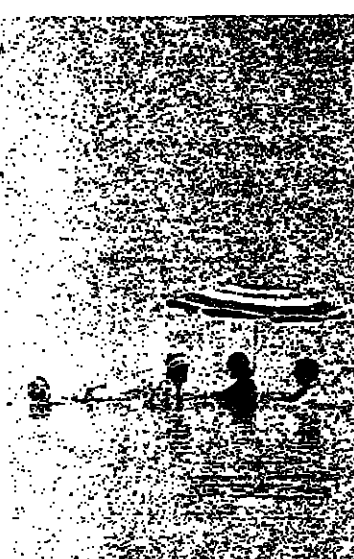
The reason is the density of the atmosphere at that sub-sea level which filters out the ultra-violet rays which cause not only burns but skin cancer, according to Tamir. "Not only that, but the sunburn lasts much longer," he adds.

If the secretaries of Europe discover that the Dead Sea sun can keep them tanned long after they have returned to their snowy climes, they may yet turn Sodom into the Switzerland of the Middle East. That at least is Shamir's fond hope as he surveys the future of his region.

"The Dead Sea has the biggest potential of any region for leading the country to economic independence."

Tourism is one of the main elements in this vision. There are presently six hotels in two locations along the Dead Sea — Ein Bokek and Hamat Zohar — with two more under construction. Their 80 per cent occupancy rate is the highest in the country, thanks mainly to the popularity with Europeans of the natural treatments available to skin disease sufferers along the shores of the Dead Sea.

A proposed new tourism site between Ein Gedi and Masada would accommodate 50 hotels if the planners' projections are realized. Asked what tourists would do in the middle



million. The Greek Islands have close to seven million tourists a year. With tourists in these numbers seeking Mediterranean sun, Shamir is convinced that the Dead Sea will become a major tourist attraction once the infrastructure is built and the word gets out about those ultra-violet rays. In addition to the sun and the view there are nearby sights like Masada and, little more than an hour away, Jerusalem.

The Dead Sea itself is a mineral treasure-house being artfully mined by the Dead Sea Works, the largest dollar earner in Israeli industry. Some 1.8 million tons of potash is extracted annually and this figure will rise. Shamir maintains that magnesium, which exists in large concentrations in the Dead Sea, will provide a great new source of income in the future when techniques are devised to mine it economically. A number of mineral-based industries provide employment in the Dead Sea area to thousands of workers.

Half a dozen settlements with close to 2,000 residents exist along the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. Although Ein Gedi draws 80 per cent of its income from tourism, mostly local, the other settlements are more heavily based on agriculture, utilizing the ample sunshine for early production of vegetables. Ten new settlements are planned for the region, including three on the eastern slopes of the Hebron Hills facing the Dead Sea and three in the Sodom Valley.

The Dead Sea region is probably the best example in the country of ingenuity and will-power being used to transform a seemingly wasted landscape benefit of life, or any hope of life into a thriving enterprise in which the handicaps — heat, a sun that beats down unblinkingly 360 days a year and a salt-laden sea — become high-priced chips to be raked in by the house.

ONE OF the reasons hotel development in the region has not proceeded faster, according to Shamir, is the price asked by the government for barren land. A dunam of undeveloped land near the hotel areas can cost \$100,000.

"Until they lower land prices, eliminate the bureaucracy investors have to contend with and offer attractive terms for capital investment, nothing is going to move," he says.

When these steps were taken in Cyprus, he notes, the number of tourists increased within a very few years from 80,000 annually to two

RAFI HOCHMAN'S office is filled with trophies and photographs charting significant chapters in the history of Eilat — very appropriate for the workplace of the city's mayor.

But we are more interested in hearing a bit about the future — specifically, of the tourist industry in Israel's thriving southernmost city, which boasts more than 20 three-to-five-star hotels and a host of lower-rated facilities.

City hall, Hochman tells us, is inundated with requests for permits to build even more hotels including applications from both national and multi-national luxury chains.

The impression that the city is comprised of hotel guests and has not much in the way of residents is true to some extent, Hochman admits. And the hotels are suffering from a serious shortage in staff these days. Major efforts have been made to attract young people just out of the army, he explains, but the lure of year-round sunshine and decent wages and working conditions is apparently not enough to draw them. Few of those who do come stay longer than a few months.

Hochman believes that more

FEW MEN are more optimistic than Michel Jauslin about the future of Jerusalem's tourist industry. But then, as general manager of the new 522-room Hyatt Regency, scheduled to open here in April 1987, he can't afford not to be.

"I'm totally confident," he says, looking out from his office on Mount Scopus, over the hotel's breathtaking view of the city. "We don't have enough excuses not to do well in a city that sells itself as well as this."

Eight years in the planning stage and five in actual construction, the Regency represents a major effort by the multi-national Hyatt corporation to establish itself on Israeli soil. Their one previous foray here was a brief attempt to take over the management of the ill-fated Astoria (now Dan Panorama) in Tel Aviv.

The new hotel represents a far more serious investment of time and money. It is a showcase that is planned to be one of the more glittering links in the company's chain.

Like other Hyatts, its determinedly modernist architecture skirts the

## Mayor's eye view

Greer Fay Cashman

workers will come once the new School of Tourism gets underway. Sponsored by Isrotel head David Lewis and the Ministries of Tourism and Labour, the school will operate out of a local hotel, offering its students both theoretical and hands-on training.

NONETHELESS, Eilat continues to outrank the rest of the country as a tourist destination, both in summer and winter. But what will ultimately put the town on the map is the \$30 million international sports and training complex containing facilities for track, field and court sports including football, handball, basketball, tennis and even horse-racing. Several leading international soccer clubs have already brought teams to Eilat for winter training. Though it is difficult to imagine anyone running around on a soccer field in Eilat, Hochman produces enthusias-

tic letters written by Liverpool and Manchester United captains Graham Sones and Ron Atkins after they had tested the ground.

The sports complex will also double as exhibition grounds for national and international fairs. A convention site requires a large and sophisticated conference hall which Eilat still lacks. Hochman is working on plans for one which will be jointly funded by all the five-star hotels, and located in the heart of the North Beach with underground access from the major hotels.

Before the year is out, Eilat will embark on an ambitious five-year, \$7 million environmental improvement project. The plan is to introduce better lighting to the streets, and to construct pocket parks, playgrounds and attractive walkways, and generally more greenery. A \$3 million central park will be developed concurrently.

Hochman reveals yet another plan for a high-class urban neighbour-

hood. In the first stage it will have 500 luxury residences with provision for 500 more. He already has a list of would-be residents from Los Angeles and says that an additional list of South Africans is in the pipeline.

The mayor is confident that many of the new residents will invest in the local businesses, spurred by the financial concessions of a Free Trade Zone area. He can already envision Eilat as an important centre for science-based industry.

Despite his grandiose plans, Hochman doesn't want Eilat to grow too fast or too much, though he is cheered by the large number of newcomers to the town. "We used to have a lot of emigrants. Now we have a lot of immigrants," he says.

Regardless of the other directions in which Eilat may develop, it will always remain a vacation spot. Tourists currently complain that there are few places to shop and not enough night life. The mayor hopes that within the next few years this too will change. Another change which must come sooner or later is in the resistance by Israel's legislature to a casino.

## Multi-national effort

Caleb Ben-David

thin line between bold and flashy, although an admirable attempt has been made to integrate the building into its surroundings by constructing it along the slope of Mt. Scopus. Its low-rise multi-terraced layout gives maximum exposure of a view that encompasses nearly all of the city. Its interior features the company's trademarked lobby "atrium."

For the opening, the company has brought in the 36-year-old Jauslin, a graduate of the renowned Ecole Hotelier de Lausanne in Switzerland, from the top management position of their New Delhi branch. Jauslin is not intimidated by the challenge facing him, although the hotelier compares the preparations for the opening to "planning for the Olympic Games."

The drop in American tourism last season, due to the terrorist scare also does not overly concern him. He cites recent figures that show that the hotel room occupancy rate remained at an acceptable level.

He feels that the government is doing a good enough job in supporting the tourist industry here, except in the area of pushing for an increase in the passenger air traffic into the country.

"Today during the high seasons there are rooms open but people can't get a place on the planes coming here. We need more flights."

Though the Hyatt is located farther from the centre of the city than most of the other major hotels, Jauslin says that the location is not a disadvantage. It affords both the spectacular view and the space needed for two tennis courts and large pool. He also sees the Regency's Mount Scopus neighbours —

near-by Hadassah University Hospital and Hebrew University — as potential resources.

"Hadassah has already contacted us about working out special arrangements for guests who are here to visit or use the hospital, and we are expecting to hire many of the students from the university."

Jauslin expects the new Hyatt to be a "trendsetter" on the Jerusalem tourist scene. "Other hotels here mostly rely on tradition," he says. "The mark of our chain is innovation."

New twists include the "Regency Club" section of rooms, suites and boardrooms; that will offer extra amenities to high-powered executives and pampered travellers.

The next year will tell whether the Regency can fulfil its promise of new excitement for the local tourist industry. The hotel's promotional video features the usual views of Jerusalem's historic attractions, but Jauslin points out, they are set to a snappy disco beat in place of the usual schmaltzy mid-East muzak.

If Isrotel, through the energy and drive of David Lewis, has done a lot to change the face of Eilat and make it more attractive to North Beach tourists, the achievement of another Englishman on the South Beach cannot be overlooked.

Cyril Stein, chairman and managing director of the Ladbroke Group, is the moving force behind the Club In holiday village, created at a cost of \$15 million. Since its opening in September, 1984, the village, with its 168 two-bedroom villas, has attracted a rapidly growing clientele.

The self-catering concept here has been pioneered by couples with young families. The villas are not rented out on a head count. Thus it can cost less to accommodate a family of six at Club In, than it costs for a single room in a hotel. The villa's additional features are its lounge, kitchenette and bathroom. Guests have the choice of cooking for themselves or dining at one of the Club In eateries.

The village has everything a holiday-maker could want, and there are guests who don't venture beyond the village for the whole of their stay. There are also special facilities for kids to keep them out of their parents' hair. This too makes a vital difference to holiday enjoyment, enabling families to be separate yet together — or perhaps it's the other way around. G.F.C.

THE OPENING of a new hotel normally evokes an image of "a place for everything, and everything in its place."

At the Isrotel chain Sport Hotel in Eilat there certainly is a place for everything — 220 guest rooms, food, sports, dancing — but everything is not yet in its place.

The official grand opening must wait until 1987 but, in the words of general manager Stephen Ayers, "the Sport Hotel is now in the midst of a 'soft opening,' a period in which we are getting things into place nicely and comfortably."

The Sport Hotel, says Ayers, "is first and foremost a resort hotel, but with an emphasis on sport. It is also part of Isrotel's grand design for Eilat, since we will cater to the guests at the King Solomon and Lagoon hotels by completing the services we want everyone to enjoy." By this, Ayers means sports.

The hotel already has a "half size" olympic swimming pool in operation and soon to come on line are two waterfalls, a smaller heated pool, two squash courts (the first in Eilat), two jacuzzis, a sauna, and a fully-equipped health club.

On part of some 20 dunams set aside for sports, five tennis courts, two multi-purpose courts (for basketball, handball and mini-football), two racquetball courts and a tennis training wall are available.

On the drawing board for the remainder of the 20 dunams and scheduled for completion within a year are a horseback riding school, mini-golf, a children's playground, croquet, archery, bankshot, retherball, horseshoes, table-tennis and an obstacle course.

For those who make a sport of eating, the hotel has something for everyone. The facilities are kosher and the dining room offers Isrotel's trademark buffets for both breakfast and dinner. There is also an à la carte grill room for the steak eaters, a health corner and a poolside grill.

The Sport Hotel can expect to acquire a four-star rating from the Ministry of Tourism but, says Ayers, "we have graded ourselves as a three-star Isrotel hotel. Look around and tell me if this is only a three-star hotel." J.W.

## Southern constellations

Greer Fay Cashman and Jeffrey Wigoder survey some of Eilat's hotels.

ie; a fish restaurant; a dairy restaurant; a yacht serving light meals; a poolside grill and a Spanish buffet.

At night, there is live, cabaret-style entertainment. In the daytime when it's warm out, there are numerous poolside activities plus programmes for children. The hotel has two outdoor swimming pools, a paddle pool for children and two floodlit tennis courts.

NOW THAT the winter season has started, the majority of guests are Europeans on charter packages. One of the peculiarities of this clientele, says general manager Daniel Roger, is that even when they go on vacation, they insist on keeping up with their favourite television programmes. Consequently, the King Solomon acquired a \$5,000 satellite dish — a good investment, he says.

The King Solomon's next-door neighbour the Lagoon (also part of the Isrotel fleet) was closed during the summer for refurbishing. Just the new flooring and carpets cost \$300,000, says GM Micky Shogol, noting that other renovations included decorative ceilings in the public areas, restyling of the lobby and entertainment lounge, a new piano bar and dining room. The

face-lift was completed in time for the winter season.

On the other hand, it was a good time to promote the newly-opened Sport Hotel, a few minutes away. It isn't always sound business for a management organization to divert guests from a four-star to a three-star facility, but since Isrotel wanted to introduce guests to its (then) newest project, it made business sense to urge people who couldn't stay at the Lagoon to try the Sport. (See article following.)

Just across the road from the Sport Hotel is what promises to be Isrotel's brightest star: the St. Tropez, formerly the Club Med. Totally refurbished, it will operate as a three-star hotel until construction of a new, larger wing on adjacent land is completed. The original structure will subsequently be integrated into the new five-star complex.

When all these plans come to fruition, Lewis wants to revamp the Eyal Hotel into a self-catering facility. The Eyal currently serves as residential quarters for Isrotel's out-of-town staff.

A little closer to town is the Neptune Hotel, an important four-star link in the IRH chain and, for several years prior to the opening of the Sonesta Hotel at Taba and the King Solomon on the North Beach, considered to be Eilat's most luxurious hotel.

Currently, its major claim to fame is that it houses Eilat's local radio station — the first and so far the only local station in the country.

Competition has, in a sense, forced the Neptune to develop its own special character. MG Eli Levy candidly admits that the Neptune does not offer as many activities as some of its neighbours, because it attracts a different kind of clientele, especially now in the winter in particular, middle-aged visitors from abroad who want peace and quiet, sunshine and good service.

When they come to Eilat, Europeans, says Levy, want to forget about business and telephones. They like the soft background music of a piano bar, and balk at anything loud and electronic.

Heavily booked till the end of May, the Neptune is now hosting some of the Israelis who stayed there in summer. Levy — and other Eilat hotel managers — are still amazed by the sabra onslaught throughout the whole of this year.

It is a phenomenon no one would have predicted even three years ago, says Levy.

"We're starting to build up a Israeli winter market. Until two years ago, we had hardly any staying with us. It's a pleasant surprise. Israelis are changing their standards and their vacation habits," says Levy.

"First, they went to Histadrut-run guest houses; then they went to small, family-style hotels; then they discovered four- and five-star hotels. Now it has become the in thing to stay at a hotel in Israel."

Some years ago, IRH acquired the three-star Galei Eilat as an annex to the Neptune. While the latter is on the brink of five-star criteria, the Galei Eilat does not exude an aura beyond its station and will probably suffer in the competition with the Sport Hotel.

Club In — Where fun knows no bounds. The only resort of its kind in Israel, Club In offers your clients the choice of relaxation.

At Club In, Eilat, accommodation is in a luxurious, spacious, air-conditioned villa with 2 bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchenette and lounge with your own private "panoramic" terrace. Our lively and imaginative entertainment and sports team offer you an endless choice of activities for fun and relaxation. Aerobatics • floodlit tennis courts (with free tennis instruction and equipment) • basketball • volleyball • water sports • outdoor jacuzzi • heated swimming pool • poolside barbeque and take away bar • lounge bar • restaurant • laundrette • supermarket • kiddies club • nightclub with live music • cabaret, and dancing till dawn.

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THERE ARE almost as many synonyms for the word "camel" in Arabic as the Eskimos have for the word "snow." For nomadic desert tribes like the Beduin, the camel has a significance far beyond its zoological attributes.

Camel caravans have dotted the arid landscape of the Middle East for centuries. In fact, some say that the camel was the first beast of burden to be tamed for human use. Carrying goods to and fro across the continents of Asia and Africa, the camel was famed for its stamina and strength.

For a small taste of that historic tradition, visitors to the Dead Sea hotel area (there are now six hotels along the palm-lined beachfront) can take a day trip to the Camel Farm near the ancient ruins of Mamshit, once an important link in the trade route.

The farm, run by Ariel Ullmann and Galit Stein, who previously ran a snake farm in the Arava (Ullmann has been bitten so often that he is immune to snake venom; he also bears scars on his fingers from too-close encounters), is situated just five kilometres south of Dimona.

"When I had to give up the serpentarium, I wanted to set up something that would incorporate my love of the desert and animals with my friendship with local Beduins," said Ullmann. He and Stein, his companion and partner for the past five years, now have 10 camels and a donkey instead - along with a 20-dunam spread into which they are introducing plant species from other arid zones with the help of James

Aranson of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's Applied Research Institute.

They are open for visitors. For NIS 89, those interested in a unique off-beat experience get transfers to and from the Dead Sea hotel area as well as an experienced tour guide licensed by the Ministry of Tourism.

"Visitors are welcomed in this tent, made of goat wool, and then given the traditional Beduin welcome with sweet tea and bitter coffee," said Ullmann. A short explanation about the desert follows, then a camel trek to Mamshit, once an important Nabatean and, later, Byzantine town.

"The Nabateans settled here permanently in the middle period, in the two centuries just before and after the beginning of the Christian Era. This town is the most eastern in the Negev and acted as a service station for caravans going to and coming from Petra. In fact, this was the central junction to Hebron, Aydat, Halutza, Jerusalem and Petra," said Ullmann. He added that at a later stage, the Nabateans in Mamshit turned to agriculture and horse-breeding, possibly Arab racehorses.

"Stables have been unearthed so it seems to have been an important economic staple."

As their people did elsewhere in the desert, the Nabateans of Mamshit used floodwaters and run-off waters to irrigate their fields, in which they grew grapes, wheat and barley, the year round. "This is a rich area, because of the combination of sandy plain and canyons," said Ullmann.

## A novel way to navigate the Negev

Liora Moriel hears about a bumpy—but fun—way to see the desert.



THERE ARE also two Byzantine churches, which Ullmann and Stein term "sumptuous" and which are well-preserved because of the paucity of precipitation in the region. "This place has been inhabited since the Bronze Age," they said.

The 10 camels, all of them female, have names like Golda and Venus.

The humane treatment they receive, along with good food and veterinary care, are part of a larger plan to turn the farm into a research centre for camels and their byproducts. Camel milk is said to be very rich in nutrients and ideal for cosmetic use. Camels have only one calf a year at most - and never twins - so it is not

so difficult to understand why, although they are so important and their domestication so ancient, there are only 15 million of them in the world today.

"We want to study how to help solve the problem of hunger in developing countries, where the camel is the only animal with any chance of

flourishing, either in pens or in open grazing."

Ullmann added that the Mamshit camel farm is "one of the very few where camels are raised in a controlled situation. Although camels have been domesticated for thousands of years, there is still very little known about them." There are two archetypes of camels in the area: the tall one with long legs and neck (good for riding) and the short wide one which is best for mating and milk.

"There are world records of 40 litres of milk a day from one female camel, but the Israeli average is 15, including the amount drunk by the calf."

"Camels are very interesting and there's lots to discover about them still. They are very well adapted to the desert; carrying a person is nothing for them. The camel doesn't tire easily." For the newcomers to the rough desert, Ullmann and Stein have designed a special saddle which is much better padded than the one normally used for taking trekkers on a desert tour. There are even stumps!

A camel eats 5 kilos of dry fodder such as straw, a day; here, they also get barley. The idea is to breed a better camel, eventually. For the moment, the farm runs camel treks.

After the trek, which can be as long or as short as the visitors desire (there is a special Israeli overnight trek with outdoor accommodation in sleeping bags, including guide and food, for NIS 75), the enthusiastic entrepreneurs feed their guests with traditional Beduin fare.

Such a meal is incomplete without

labane - the goat milk cheese, usually dipped in olive oil and spiced with zatar lentils, and two types of bread. One is the shrak, a very thin pita bread that is cooked over a special piece of thin metal, called sad, and is reminiscent of the Druse pita bread. The other is the thick-dough li'beh, which is baked over coals (or, for additional flavour, over a mixture of coals and camel dung). "Camel dung is probably the world's earliest fuel," said Ullmann with a smile.

ULLMANN AND Stein look on their farm, a totally private enterprise into which they and their families have sunk all their savings - as "Zionism 1986." They are now looking for a partner who will help ease the inevitable cash flow problems that plague every new scheme.

Blending into the scenery, not far from the tent, is an adobe-like house which serves as the owners' living quarters and has a separate entrance for visitors' washroom facilities. Electricity is provided by a generator and a beeper takes the place of a telephone. When a message comes through, they get into the jeep and roar off to Dimona to look for a working public call box.

Those who would like to sample these camel treks in the desert can call the farm through the beeper service: (02)224341; (03)7549111; (04)380541 or (05)79765 - the uniform code number is 6420 for any message. There is also an address for those who would like to write ahead: Camel Farm UO, Box 71, Dimona 86100.

DURING this Ben-Gurion centennial year, B-G biographers, eulogists and people who worked with him recall his great vision of making the desert green. The Old Man charged the Jewish National Fund with that particular responsibility, and time has shown that his confidence was not misplaced.

Only a few years after B-G's death, Milwaukee lawyer, benefactor and land developer Avrum Chudnow decided that his dream was to make the desert blue - and also charged the Jewish National Fund with that task.

Just as Ben-Gurion rejoiced to see green spreading over Negev soil, so Avrum Chudnow and his family have delighted in seeing blue. Earlier this year, their eyes sparkling with pride, they cut the blue-and-

## Making the desert blue

Greer Fay Cashman

white ribbons stretched across the jetty jutting over the artificial lake in Timna Valley Park and applauded the young swimmers from surrounding kibbutzim.

The lake, near Eilat, is part of a multi-million dollar development project in which the JNF of America will create yet another miracle in the desert. During the past three years, the JNF has created hiking trails and 11 kilometres of roadway in Timna Park.

Future plans include the completion of a complex for visitors, camping and recreation areas, picnic sites, rest areas and changing rooms.

Also on the agenda is the reconstruction of the ancient copper mines there. The idea is to permit the tourists to mine their own copper souvenirs during their visit to Timna.

When the Timna Valley Park project was adopted by the JNF of America in 1983, Chudnow pledged a million dollars for the creation of a man-made lake, the largest individual contribution in the history of the 85-year-old organization. Some \$350,000 of that pledge has already

been paid.

Chudnow has travelled all over America to raise funds, and believes that he has two prospective donors who will give large gifts of several million dollars. He himself has been a frequent visitor to Timna since the project was first mooted and plans to be on hand for the opening of the visitors' centre, which he hopes will coincide with JNF/America's national assembly that will take place here next February.

The JNF of America has blue-printed several other projects for Timna Valley Park with dedication ceremonies slated for each. Only a 15-minute drive from Eilat, the Park, when fully developed, is destined to become a magnet to locals and tourists alike - yet another good reason for visitors to go south.

"LEFT for Dead Sea trip. Very curious the drop in terrain from Jerusalem to Dead Sea - some 2,600 ft. in a distance of 26 miles. Waters of Dead Sea resemble in colour Gulf of Mexico. Slept on stones outdoors in order to get an early start at 4 a.m., which we did. Twenty-nine in our party."

This May 18, 1923 diary entry by William Topkis was his initial record of a four-day trip to the Dead Sea, one of the highlights of his half-year stay in Palestine. Certainly not a wilderness man from his American upbringing, he did not hesitate to sleep on stones, just as the Patriarch Jacob did in biblical times.

William Topkis, an American Zionist leader during this period and an ally of Louis Lipsky, was a native of Wilmington, Delaware. A community activist, businessman and investor, his financial acumen had captured the interests of the DuPont family which invited him to become a board member in one of their banks. Later, he was a partner with them in the early Samuel Goldwyn productions. Topkis even persuaded Goldwyn to film a biblical epic in Palestine, but the venture did not come to fruition.

The family enterprise, in which he was a partner with his four brothers and one sister, was the Topkis Athletic Underwear Company. The "union suits" created by this firm during and after World War I moved it into the underwear big leagues behind the two giants, BVD and Fruit of the Loom. The ads for this underwear, costing just "one dollar," were prominently displayed in American newspapers and magazines in the 20s.

Topkis and his older brother Louis

## A sleep on Dead Sea stones

David Geffen

took an active interest in the Zionist movement prior to the Balfour Declaration. Under Lipsky's patronage, they quickly became national leaders. Louis Topkis became the national treasurer of the ZOA and was one of that organization's representatives at the dedication of the Hebrew University in 1925. William Topkis only sought membership on committees but made his real mark in 1923 when he spent a half year in Palestine with his wife and daughter. His American Information Bureau matched up tourists with Jewish guides. Furthermore the film *Palestine Awakening* which he wrote and directed became a leading "propaganda" tool for the Jewish National Fund.

NEAR THE end of his stay, he joined a semi-scientific expedition to the Dead Sea. Louis Cantor, then a sanitation engineer in Jerusalem and a participant in the trip, wrote Topkis that going to the Dead Sea was "an enjoyable trip and experience at one of nature's most stupendous wonders." Cantor, Dr. Ticho, Professor Bodenheimer and others accompanied Topkis in this adventure.

The second day out, May 19, began quite early. After pushing off in a boat at 4 a.m., they made their way along the Dead Sea. "Stopped at 8 for bath in spring. Stood under small waterfall and had shower bath. Later

found a hot sulphur spring that was sure fine. Stayed in half hour or more." Topkis, like all knowledgeable tourists to the Dead Sea, took advantage of the wonderful natural resources in the area.

"Fine formations on shore," he continued. "Some places, red rocks 100 feet high. Very beautiful and worth seeing." The end of that second day had been reached. It was hot, but he concluded that day's entry with the word "bearable."

Rising at 4 a.m. again the next day, the party had slept on "a little island of sand." Possibly they had camped on the formation known as *halashon* (the tongue). "Sea rough, many seasick," Topkis noted. "Sailing south they arrived at 'Lot's pillar of salt' containing 'probably millions of tons of salt rock here.' An adventurous spirit, Topkis climbed into a nearby cave. "Very fine formation, high dome with rooms opening at top. Spent several hours here, so cool, then went to place to bathe, back to island for night."

FOR THE last day out, Topkis was again up at 4 a.m. Then he recorded his first reaction to the water. "A salty oily substance, when one bathes in it, it is sticky and the itching effect [follows] soon after." Since it was difficult to land the boat near the shore at this point, Topkis got into the water and started to walk to land. "My shoes became small," he recorded, "and my feet sore." The condition of his feet did not deter him, however. "Walked to the place

where the Maccabees made their last stand, then some 900 killed themselves there." Topkis was at Masada but due to faulty information he had been given, he mistakenly called those who had taken their lives the Maccabees. He was so impressed by the site that he wrote to his family in Delaware: "One has to see with his own eyes these sights in order to appreciate the heroic actions of our ancestors in fighting to defend our people."

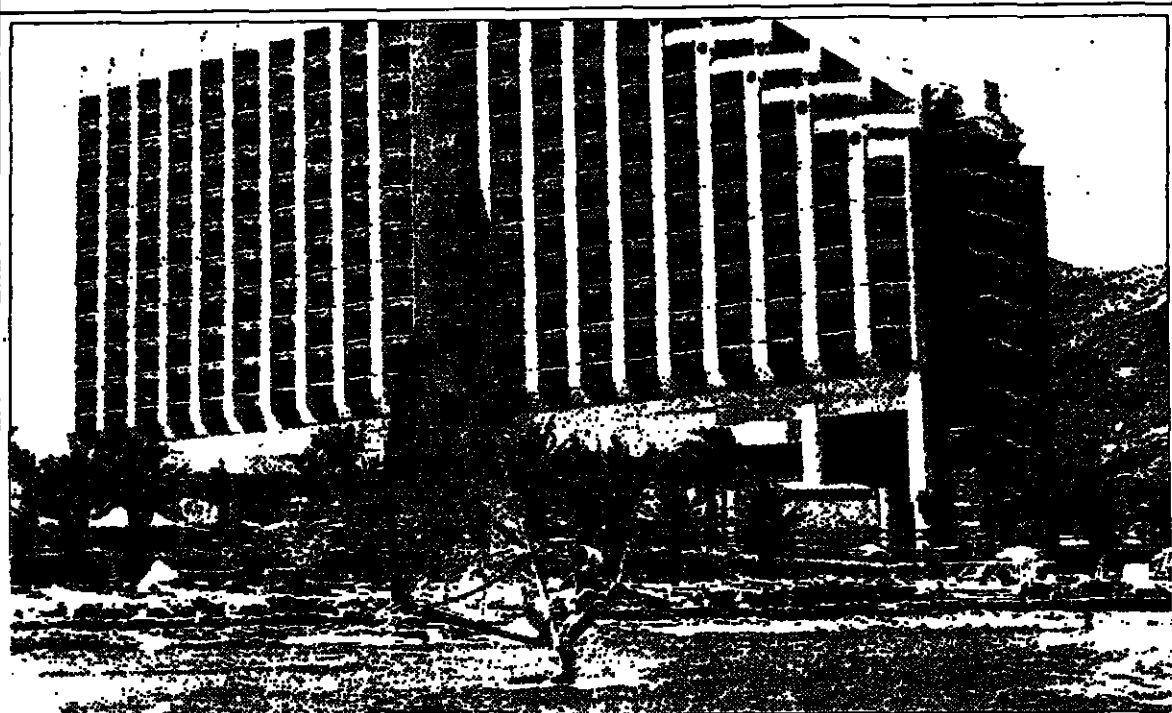
AT EIN GEDI, he "lay in swift pool of water under bulrushes for one hour, how refreshing." At this juncture, unfortunately, Topkis sustained an injury since he grabbed a hot pipe and burned himself badly. The accompanying nurses immediately "affixed first aid." By 10 that evening he was back in Jerusalem, but he had been one of the lucky ones since his final sentence indicated "some of the party [was] held up and robbed by Beduins."

For the return to Jerusalem, the group had split into two, and the newspaper described the incident in this fashion. "At kilometre 31, five kilometres from Jericho, 10 Beduin armed with German rifles halted the party and took from them their money, their valuables, their gear and equipment." A trip to the Dead Sea could end unceremoniously in those days with brigands waiting to stop the unsuspecting tourists.

Then as now, descending to the Dead Sea provides an experience unlike any other on this earth. When one is at the lowest point on this planet, anything can happen. A ponting expedition in the Twenties reminds us how much, and yet how little, the thrill of a Dead Sea adventure has changed.

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## A solution to traffic jams

ON A DAY when everything's going right, it takes about 50 minutes to drive from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. But there's no guarantee of that.

The trouble usually starts five minutes after you pass Lod. Theoretically, you should be now five or 10 minutes away from your destination. The Shalom Tower is reassuringly in sight - but stretched ahead are long lanes of vehicles which scarcely seem to move. Getting through that bottleneck at the entrance to Tel Aviv can take up to an hour.

It's the kind of frustration we can all live without. For anyone caught on that highway, it's a nuisance; for the business executive, time is money and he may be losing a fortune.

Nesher Aviation, based at Jerusalem's Atarot Airport, offers a convenient solution: the air taxi. Introduced over 18 months ago, the air taxi may cost six or seven times as much as a sherut or bus, but the cost is entirely justified by the time saved. Passengers get into Tel Aviv within a mere 15 minutes of take-off.

That's just one of Nesher's many services. Government ministries and various other organizations which entertain foreign dignitaries for the briefest of stays, use Nesher to give their visitors a spectacular aerial view of Jerusalem.

Plane passengers may miss out on the aromas of the city, but they get to see a lot in a short time. Those with an hour or so to spare can fly beyond the Jerusalem skies to Masada, and pilots will obligingly vary their route

on the way back to let passengers see just a little more of the country.

Nesher has been very successful with its bar-mitzva package flights, in which youths newly inducted into manhood get individual flying lessons from the pilot over Jerusalem, instructions on how to look at things from the air, plus they visit the control tower to hear an explanation of its operation; tour the airport fire-station, and enjoy a complete run-through in a flight simulator.

As gifts go, it sure beats fountain pens and wrist-watches. The young flyers take home a diploma testifying to their experience. The bar-mitzva package costs less than NIS 80, and if the whole family wants to join in the fun, a discount is negotiable.

Though most of its flights are inland, Nesher also offers tailor-made charters abroad, and frequently rushes foreign correspondents to some newsworthy event suddenly erupted in another country.

In addition to its regular air service, Nesher also operates the only flying school in Jerusalem.

Prospective pilots are trained on Beechcraft Skippers. On-site classrooms have the most up-to-date audio-visual equipment and training aids providing the theory to complement the practical skills. Nesher's ATC 810 flight simulator is the only one of its kind in Israel, offering advanced students and rated pilots on-the-ground training for twin-engine and instrument ratings.

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# Outgoing Export Institute head says: Export subsidies no longer needed

By SIMON LOUISSEON  
For The Jerusalem Post  
TEL AVIV. — After eight years of advising exporters how to do it, Rami Gutt, director-general of the Export Institute, is about to gain first-hand knowledge of the experience. He is moving to a new international trading company dealing in raw materials, but he will not name the company until after his successor is appointed, probably today or tomorrow.

Gutt refuses to be drawn into the controversy surrounding the appointment of the next director-general other than to say he expects the institute's board to choose the person on his or her merits.

Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon is reported to have vetoed other nominations in favour of one of the former secret service agents who resigned over the Bus 300 affair. Exporters dominate on the board and they will choose the candidate whether he has been nominated by the ministry or from within industry, says Gutt. He says there are several prospective candidates.

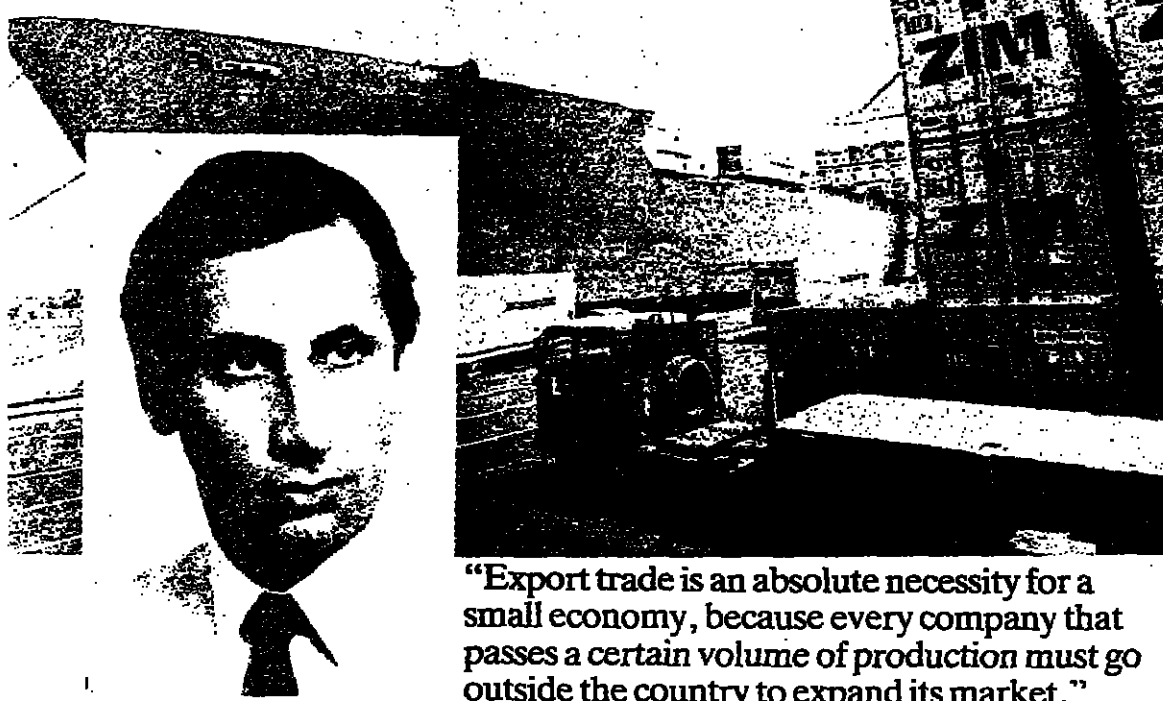
Gutt, 42, handles the controversial issue with the discretion of a professional diplomat. Despite training as a mechanical engineer at the Technion, the suave and swarthy former professional basketball player has made his career as a professional commercial adviser.

In his eight-year reign Gutt has seen Israel's industrial exports rise from \$3.7 billion to over \$5b. annually. The economic necessity for Israel to export is based on its size and geographic position, says Gutt. "Export trade is an absolute necessity for a small economy because every company which passes a certain volume of production must go outside the country to expand its market."

Israel exports some 45 per cent of its gross national product, compared with 22 per cent for the U.S. Gutt sees Israel's industrial development as moving from import substitution towards the export phase. When he took over the institute in 1978, Israel was moving strongly towards exporting. The big change during his time has been the transition from consumer goods to industrial products.

The other big change has been the removal of subsidies and export incentives. These were needed initially to create "greenhouse" conditions, but they are largely not necessary now, he says. Only special credit facilities are needed to counter the artificially expensive credit in Israel.

The two biggest problems facing exporters today relate to exchange rates. Gutt says that exporters are partly paying for the economic reform programme because of the un-



Rami Gutt

"Export trade is an absolute necessity for a small economy, because every company that passes a certain volume of production must go outside the country to expand its market."

official freeze of the shekel against the U.S. dollar. While he does not accept some exporters' claims that production costs have risen 50 per cent since July 1985 (Gutt points out the industrial products index has risen only 26 per cent), Gutt does see higher costs as a major problem facing exporters, especially those who export to the dollar area. It is a problem the government must face up to.

The other exchange rate-related problem concerns the risks faced by firms which export a large proportion of their production. Israel is lacking the financial instruments such as currency futures and sophisticated forward-exchange instruments, to allow exporters to insure themselves against massive currency fluctuations.

However, when it comes down to a question of financial stability or a more realistic exchange rate, Gutt opts for stability as the more important consideration.

"The ideal situation is to have an exchange rate dictated by market forces, but we have a situation where the control of inflation is an absolute necessity. The exchange rate is important but not crucial. The availability of foreign exchange is important to the Israeli economy and exports must be profitable or they will decline. This is a problem the gov-

ernment has to meet." Under Gutt's direction the institute, which is jointly run by the Industry and Trade Ministry, the Manufacturers' Association and the Histadrut holding company Hevrat Ha'ovdim, has a two-pronged strategy to encourage exporters. Firstly, it provides all the advice exporters need at one stop. Secondly, the institute organizes trade fairs and exhibitions both in Israel and overseas.

Gutt is particularly proud of the fact that the institute provides all advisory services under one roof, unlike a number of comparable organizations in other countries. This has enabled staff numbers to be reduced from 125 to 75 while expanding the services. One of the services he has helped innovate is the provision of a marketing expert to young companies one day a week for six months to help build an overseas marketing plan.

In the area of trade promotion Gutt has concentrated on group activities. The philosophy behind this is that small countries have the problem of creating an image.

The development of the group approach has seen such events as the Agritech show which allows all the agricultural industry producers to demonstrate their products every three years. The institute helped

arrange the visit of 4,000 people from some 92 countries.

Biannual fashion shows in New York, representation at the Singapore airshow, and a civil safety and security equipment congress are typical of the institute's promotions.

Gutt says Israel is following the correct policy to concentrate on the U.S. and European Community markets sometimes at the expense of the Far East and others.

"We don't have any relative advantage in the Far East. There is no point trying to penetrate with every product everywhere."

Israel's basic industrial strategy should not be to attempt to compete with big industry, but to try to manufacture what others don't. Exporters must manipulate themselves into niches where they use their relative advantage. Israel should not regard itself as a cheap-labour country and should not compete in low-price consumer markets. Rather, the strengths in innovation, design, quality and efficiency should be exploited to the full.

Gutt says he has derived the most satisfaction during his tenure from seeing companies which did not exist, or were only just beginning, five or six years ago, now operating as multi-million dollar exporters. No doubt Gutt will try to emulate that feat with the company he is joining.

## THE TAX BURDEN / Jeff Broide

# What is salary income?

The Income Tax Ordinance levies, among others, tax on salaries, wages and related items earned by the employee. The law specifically identifies as an integral part of salary income any earnings or profits from such work, any benefits or allowances, payments to cover expenses, or the value of a vehicle available for use of the worker. All these constitute salary and are taxable whether paid in money or in kind, whether made directly or indirectly, or given to another for the original worker's benefit.

Who, in fact, is an employee? Over the years, numerous tests have been developed as a result of court cases involving employer-employee relationships.

Gifts to employees on festive occasions are deductible by the employer and not liable to tax by the employee within the limits provided by the tax law (at present NIS 60 per annum).

Among the most common questions asked are: Is the worker independent or subject to the supervision and control of the employer? Who is responsible for supplying materials and equipment for the worker's tasks? Is the worker paid on a regular basis? Does the worker receive fringe and other social benefits? Does he work within an organized framework? What rights does the employer have to supervise and dismiss?

These tests serve to indicate whether the income earned is taxable as business income or as salary income. But as a reminder of their frailty, we can but quote the late Judge Witkon who said, "The tests are not tests and the definitions are not definitions." There is no clear-cut distinction.

Since the tax reform of 1975, the law has included all the fringe benefits, direct or indirect, as part of the salary and has levied taxes accordingly. Amounts paid for the refund of expenses, such as professional literature, clothing, telephone, water and car, are fully taxable but may be deductible as expenses, as explained later. The law provides that amounts received by an employee for meals, accommodation and refreshments (ashel) are not taxable provided the expense is incurred on a trip of at least 10 kilometres from home or work and that proper reports have been kept.

The amounts allowed are stipulated by special provisions and depend on arrival and departure times. Fixed entertainment allowances (that are not accompanied by appropriate documentation) will be treated as part of salary.

Any amount received by the salaried worker to cover car expenses is taxable as salary. In addition, if the employer provides a vehicle for the use of the employee, then the value of that benefit is taxable. A telephone allowance or refund paid to the worker is taxable, unless incurred on overseas calls for the business and conditional on adequate documentation.

In the Dan Cooperative case, the principles governing the taxability of a clothing allowance or payment to cover clothing expenses were fixed. To avoid paying tax, the clothing must protect the worker from physical injury or from damage to personal clothing, or that the

clothes indicate membership or employment with a specific organization. The ultimate test is whether the clothing serves only for the purposes of the particular work or may be used for other purposes.

If an employee receives free or reduced-cost accommodation, then the value of the benefit must be added to his salary for tax purposes. However, an official residence that serves the employee mainly for purposes of defence that is not liable under this provision. Study his or her work is not liable under this provision. Study grants given by businesses to students that will result in a formal future employer-employee relationship are treated as salary income. But bursaries granted without any conditions or obligations by the recipient are exempt from tax. A contribution to the education expenses of staff by an employer is liable to tax as salary income.

Gifts to employees on personal or festive occasions are deductible by the employer and not liable to tax by the employee within the limits provided by the tax law (at present NIS 60 per annum). This exemption does not apply to gifts which form part of the terms of employment or which are, in essence, additional salary. Prizes (for good work or efficiency and so on) are deemed to be part of the salary earned where given by the employer to his employee. However, if the prize is given by an independent third party, who has no connection with the business, then it falls outside the ambit of salary income and is exempt from income tax.

On dismissal or death, the amounts received by the employee or his family are exempt from tax within the limits imposed by the law. Beyond these amounts, they are treated as regular salary income. Loans granted to workers at low or zero-interest rates are liable to tax. The taxable benefit on the loan is the difference between the interest paid (if any) by the employee and the increase in the consumer price index during the period of the loan.

Pension-fund contributions by the employer are excluded from salary income within the prescribed limits and conditional too on participation by the employee. Amounts exceeding the ceiling are taxable in the ordinary manner. Payments on behalf of workers to a training fund (keren hishulim) are taxable on withdrawal of monies from the fund but not at the time of payment to the fund by the employer. Profits from the fund are exempt where contributions are made in accordance with labour agreements.

What constitutes a taxable fringe benefit in the hands of an employee? In the Dan case it was held that "items from which the recipient derives no benefit, or from which the benefit is immaterial or minimal as against its real purpose [to the employer], such as official caps and summer outfits for drivers," do not constitute a taxable fringe benefit. The criteria are whether the benefit is for the convenience of the employer or of the employee. The Supreme Court determined, in the Bat Yam municipality case, that "the convenience of the employer means, in essence, that the nature of the work done by the employee requires the service [that is the benefit] provided by the employer." It is of interest to note that in the same case Judge Benenson stated that a fringe benefit should not be treated as taxable income if the value of the benefit is not easily determinable in money terms.

Who ever said taxes were a game?

The writer is a Certified Public Accountant. Questions may be addressed to him c/o The Jerusalem Post.

## Iran likely to hurt dollar further

NEW YORK (Reuter). — The dollar seems to have weathered the initial uproar over the secret U.S. arms deal with Iran, but it could come under renewed pressure if the scandal festers, dealers and analysts said yesterday.

The American currency steadied Tuesday after a week-long slide, as President Reagan sought to restore some confidence in his administration by calling for a Watergate-style investigation to examine the arms affair.

Yesterday the dollar closed easier in Europe on largely technical trading, after poor U.S. home sales data came in. The U.S. currency finished at 1.9708 against the Deutschmark in Europe, after closing at 1.978. (The New York Close can be found under New York Financial Markets on page 7.) West German dealers view the dollar's tendency as still downward, and the currency could reach 1.90

marks within the next two weeks. "But reports that the dollar will fall to 1.80 marks are exaggerated," said Bob Bauer, senior dealer at Commerzbank AG.

The chance of a probe uncovering illegal deals by senior government officials is likely to pressure the dollar until the affair is finally laid to rest, dealers and analysts in key currency trading centres said.

The pressure on the dollar stems from concern that Reagan, a Republican, will have problems with the newly elected Democratic Congress for the final two years of his presidency unless he can swiftly reassert his authority, analysts said.

"We wanted a strong president to restore balance with a strong Democratic Congress. Now we have a very weak president," one dealer with a U.S. bank in London said. "The Democrats will benefit, but I doubt if the dollar will."

When the dollar rose to record highs in 1985, one factor was the power and prestige that Reagan projected. European dealers spoke then of the dollar's "Reagan bonus."

Now the tide has turned, and international investors and traders who had sought out the safe haven of the U.S. currency worry that a tarnished, lame-duck Reagan will be more of a liability than an asset.

"People fear a paralysis in

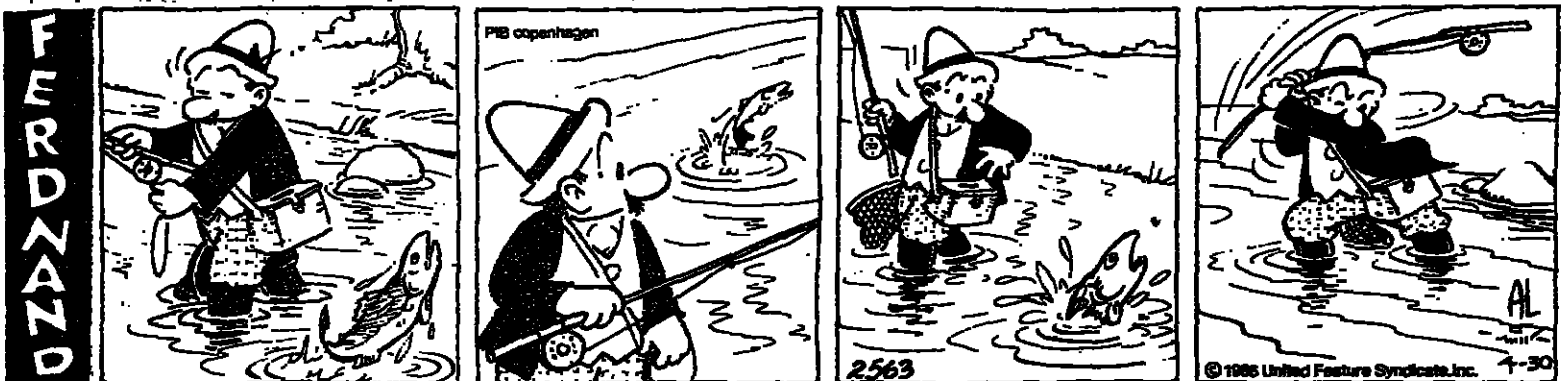
decision-making in the next two years," said Michael Snow of Union Bank of Switzerland's New York branch.

The people most worried by the turmoil are in Europe. Wall Street has shown only fleeting signs of unease, stubbornly refusing to allow the biggest presidential crisis in six years to ruin the bull markets in stocks and bonds. Indeed, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose to a record high Tuesday of 1955.57 points, while long-term bond yields fell to a three-month low. It was down slightly in early trading yesterday.

But in Europe, too, some sense that the recent selling, which saw the dollar drop from above 2.01 marks on Tuesday last week to below 1.96 marks at one point this Monday, may have been overdue.

"The dollar's fall has been a bit exaggerated, as long as there are no more embarrassing disclosures the administration should be able to get out of its corner, maybe by passing the blame onto other countries involved," a dealer at the state-owned Banque Nationale de Paris said.

Snow at the Union Bank disagreed, citing expectations of a cut in the U.S. discount rate. Snow saw the dollar falling between 1.85 and 1.90 marks, he said. "The atmosphere is ripe for another fall in the dollar."



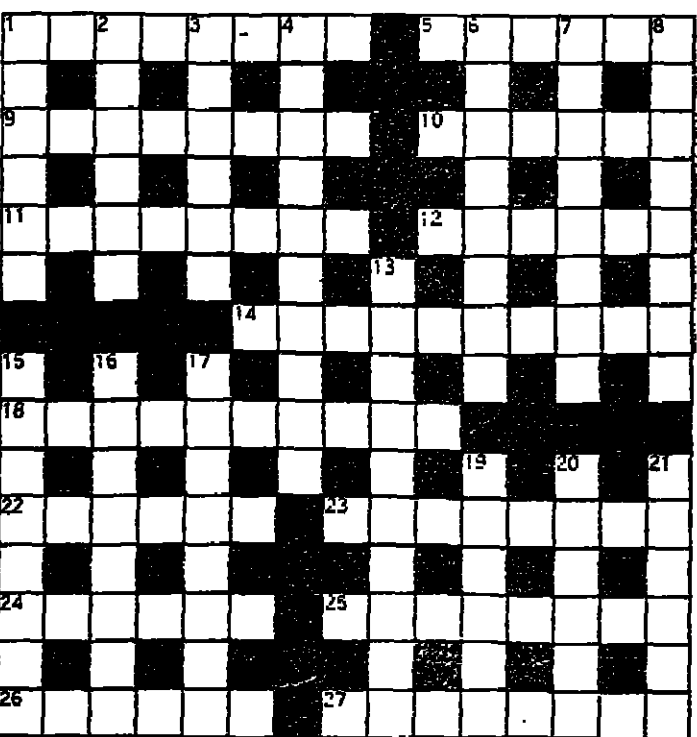
## ONE-ON-ONE CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 & 4 Fringe benefits\* (8,10)
- 5 One can't be sure where they exist (6)
- 9 It proves curiously playful (8)
- 10 Heavenly sign outside a National Trust penthouse (4,2)
- 11 Alluring piece of authentic ingenuity (8)
- 12 A girl coming back after five for a retainer (6)
- 14 What you may not see in early editions (6,4)
- 18 Capricious heathen god we read about in Hardy's novels (5,5)
- 22 Lands about to be given to the poor (6)
- 23 Taking on an employee of attractive character (8)
- 24 Gives a ruling about blended gins (6)
- 25 Hit back at a quiet dog (8)
- 26 Part-time soldiers in very smart base (6)
- 27 Didn't take the right course? (8)

### DOWN

- 1 A female doctor going around in a crushed condition\* (6)
- 2 Talks nonsense about exceptionally large perches (6)
- 3 It can't become as it was before the damage was done (6)
- 4 See 1 across
- 6 Brings too much energy into play\* (8)
- 7 Is he in the orchestra or excluded from it\* (8)
- 8 What Dalmatians can never be, however well groomed (8)
- 13 Fast food — and none too much of it (6,4)
- 15 A sweet pea Rex let fall (4,4)
- 16 A visionary transaction is covered by it (8)
- 17 Flowers one means to change (8)
- 19 A regulation framed by military intelligence for a Commonwealth country (6)
- 20 Clumsy Minute Waltz — no, another dance (6)
- 21 Of one mind about infuriating the senior citizenry (6)



## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Karem (pediatrics, ophthalmology), Bikur Holim (internal, E.N.T.), Shaare Zedek (obstetrics, surgery, orthopedics); Tel Aviv: Rikah (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery); Netanya: Laniado

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### FIRST AID 101

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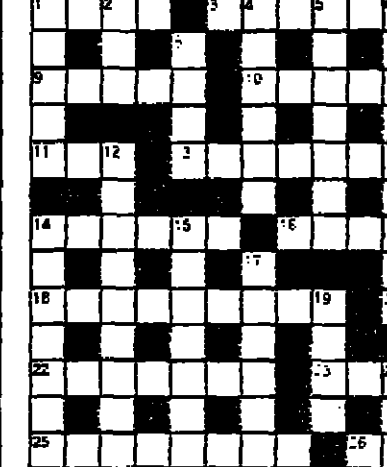
Ashdod 41333; Ashkelon 23333; Bat Yam 591111; Beer Sheva 7477; Carmiel 988555; Dar El-Ram 781111; Elit 7223; Hadara 22333; Haifa 512233; Hatzor 36333; Holon 363133; Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock. "Eran" — Emotional First Aid, Tel. Jerusalem 227171, Tel Aviv 281111 (children); youth 05-281113; Haifa 672222, Beer Sheva 418111, Netanya 35316. Rape Crisis Centre (24 hours), for help call Tel Aviv, 234519, Jerusalem — 245554, and Haifa 382511. Jerusalem Institute for Drug Problems, Tel. 682828, 683022, 14 Beshalem Rd. The National Poison Control Centre at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-528205, for emergency calls, 24 hours a day, for information cases of poisoning. Kupat Holim Emergency Centre Tel. 03-433300, 433500 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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### QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS  
1 Knitting stitch  
3 Crevices  
9 Old weapon  
11 Frighten  
13 Loud noise



- 13 Quivering
- 14 Rough
- 16 Stay
- 18 Harm
- 20 Recede
- 22 French country-seat
- 23 At no time
- 25 Weakening
- 26 Stupely

- DOWN  
1 Went white
- 2 Ladder in hose
- 4 Part of foot
- 5 Height
- 6 Underlying principle
- 7 Cowboy hat
- 8 Loaned
- 12 Dusk
- 14 Lessened
- 15 Obvious
- 17 Ya statement
- 19 Criteria
- 21 Press lord
- 24 Large tub

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S P E C I A L B A R M A K  
E D S O A I R E  
A G E L O N D R O P P E R  
A D I E S I S  
U N D E R C U R R E N T

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ACROSS: 1 Queue, 4 Gardens, 8 Alyssum, 9 Gable, 10 Easy, 11 Natural, 13 Epic, 15 La-dida, 17 Ignore, 20 Soda, 22 Dynasty, 24 Robot, 26 Naive, 27 Theatre, 28 Matador, 29 Tense. DOWN: 1 Quarrel, 2 Egypt, 3 Essayed, 4 Gemini, 5 Right, 6 Embargo, 7 Spell, 12 Acid, 14 Past, 16 Dentist, 18 Garment, 19 Extreme, 21 Oyster, 22 Denim, 23 Steed, 25 Baton.

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## MARKET PLACE

PINHAS LANDAU

## Ready for battle

What were Minister of Finance Moshe Nisim, Deputy Minister Adi Amichai, Bank of Israel Governor General Emmanuel Sharon and the head of the Treasury budget division Aharon Fogel doing at Prime Minister Shimon Peres's home on Tuesday evening? Was their two-and-a-half hour meeting on economic policy a top-secret confab prior to dramatic announcements of new measures to tackle the surging demand for imported washing machines? Or even a devaluation of the shekel?

Unfortunately for incorrigible sensation-seekers, the meeting was not secret, did not propose an imminent devaluation and paid little attention to the exact number of consumer durables imported last month. It was concerned instead with a more serious and wide-ranging topic — the shape of the government budget for 1987/88, and the extent to which key upcoming economic development can be made the base for fundamental reforms in taxation and many other areas.

Looked at more closely, the meeting can be seen as a kind of informal support group, in which the Treasury and Bank of Israel people encouraged each other and exhorted the premier to help them in the run-up to the coming battles with the spending ministries, above all with Yitzhak Rabin's Defence Ministry. According to one well-placed source, the Treasury/Bank of Israel "road-show" will soon hold another similar session with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, as part of the same build-up process.

What the participants all have in common — although they have plenty of disagreements over specific tactics and details — is a common strategy based on cutting the budget. That would free resources to be redirected to the private sector through lower corporate or personal taxes, and through greater access for companies to the pool of savings, instead of the government hogging the lot. These are referred to for short as tax reform and capital market reform, and if they were to be implemented, they could be expected to spark the most far-reaching changes seen in the Israeli economy since the Yom Kippur War, if not ever.

But the path to a stronger economy is strewn with difficulties, the most significant of which is the practical problem of getting the heads of the main spending ministries — Defence, Health, Housing, Education, Welfare and so on — to agree to eliminate programmes and departments. The planners have eschewed completely the "across-the-board" approach to budget-cutting, and are aiming for carefully-targeted cuts in specific items. These, they believe, are less difficult to achieve, and more effective if they are made.

But whether the Defence Ministry, for example, will be happy with the new strategy of precision-guided cuts instead of carpet-bombing remains very dubious. Its opening position has been that the cuts made in recent years were such that an increase is required next year, and further reductions are unthinkable. To the Treasury argument that the future of the economy is at stake — and with it the fate of the country's society — the defence establishment argues forcefully that skimping on defence will be even more fatal for Israel's future.

In the matter of claims and counter-claims with figures and percentages scattered by both sides, it is very difficult for outsiders to gauge where the truth lies.

The same outline is valid for areas such as education, health and the rest, and these are the dilemmas that face the cabinet in the coming weeks. If the budget is not cut, the economy will remain stagnant or, it is feared, slip rapidly backwards. If it is, the question is where and by how much. The Treasury is not admitting to having any exact target, but anything less than several hundred million dollars would not be meaningful in a budget of over \$20 billion.

The target date for presenting the next budget to the Knesset is January 28, by which time the cabinet arguments must be wrapped up and the details ironed out. That makes the next six weeks the crucial period for making decisions.

Not on the agenda, however, were devaluations and other "evil decrees." Regarding the former, all the participants — apparently including Fogel, who has in the past been labelled as favouring a currency adjustment — are agreed that there is no need for one at the present time and that the result, given the all-embracing linkages of the Israeli economy, would be totally counter-productive.

## Treasury passes on responsibility

## Car project goes to Knesset

By JONATHAN KARP

A proposal to build a car assembly plant in Kiryat Gat was handed over by the Treasury to the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday in a move the investors said is likely to result in the project's winning government approval after months of delays.

"We are 90 per cent certain the plant will be built," said Natan Galis, a member of the Paris-based group of Jewish investors behind the project. He said he had been pessimistic a week ago when he arrived in Israel, expecting to close the deal only to find it had run up against opposition in the Finance Ministry.

Yesterday's action was taken after MK David Magen (Likud) raised a motion for the agenda to force the Treasury to stop stalling on the decision. Magen, who was mayor of Kiryat Gat when the idea of the plant was hatched 10 months ago, claimed the plant's approval was being held up because of what he termed "Zionism 1986-style," that is, fixating on the immediate monetary reward to the government rather than encouraging long-term industrial development.

The investors who control a Paris-based company called Stone Car, are proposing to invest \$7 million to build an assembly plant for the Magnum, a four-wheel drive vehicle that has been produced in Italy since 1984. In Europe, the Magnum competes against the Land Rover as a second car for families. Galis said it was considered the "most luxurious car of the 4X4 line."

But in Israel, he emphasized, the Magnum would be altered to serve primarily as a commercial vehicle. He said the \$20,000 vehicle could be adapted as a jeep for the army or for general field work, as well as a pick-up truck.

The question of how to classify the Magnum, and thus how to tax it, formed the crux of opposition within the Finance Ministry. Stone Car insisted that the vehicle was a jeep, thus qualifying for a lower purchase tax, than a private car would, of only 8 per cent.

But officials in the Finance Ministry's customs department, while acknowledging that the investors were not asking for direct government aid, said the lower tax would indirectly cost the government NIS 20m. per year through losses in customs and tax revenue.

"This is a bad case," a senior customs official said. "We have studied the plan and have decided it is not economically sound."

An official who worked on the study said the proposal called for preferential treatment of the plant without any advantage for the national economy from the point of saving foreign currency. He added that according to customs figures, a comparable vehicle could be imported for less than the cost of bringing in the parts and assembling the Magnum here.

Galis criticized this approach for being bureaucratic and short-sighted. "The only thing tax people understand is how much the government will get," he said, admitting that in the first year most of the vehicle's parts would come from Italy. He said that by the third or fourth year the company hoped to have Israeli firms supply 70 per cent of the parts.

This activity along with the 100 jobs the plant would immediately provide would, according to Galis, represented a more significant economic gain for Israel. Galis also stressed that there would be a source of foreign currency by exporting the Magnum.

Though the Transport, Labour and Industry and Trade ministries have endorsed Stone Car's proposal, there was reportedly a feeling in the Treasury that an Israeli automobile industry could not be viable. The failure of earlier ventures, such as the Autocars plant, which was renamed Rom Carmel, and of Kaiser-Ilm, which became Tli and then Matmar, and Ford's recent pull-out all reinforced the government's apprehension.

Outside the government, Galis said that the two vehicle manufacturers in Israel — Elkon Bros. Ltd. and Ta'asir Rechev in Upper Nazareth — had opposed the Kiryat Gat proposal, and had asked the government about the possibility of building the Magnum themselves. Elkon Bros. refused to comment on the matter and Ta'ar did not return a phone call, seeking a response.

Galis maintained the time is ripe for Israel to move into the car business, and said with the right approach Stone Car could succeed. He said earlier attempts had failed either because they produced old models which did not appeal to the domestic market, they targeted a market that was either too hard to break into or too restricted, and they did not acquire the exclusive rights to export their product.

Stone Car proposes building a "cheap and simple" factory to produce only 1,400 cars in the first year, because they plan to enter a specialized market. Galis said that at least 600 of these Magnums would be exported.

"Export is very important," Galis said. "The product needs to have a name outside of Israel." Only then, he said, would larger companies take notice and offer their expertise to develop the vital local industries.

## Row over EC's giving areas preferred trade status

By YOSSEI LEMPCOWICZ

BRUSSELS. — A row has broken out between Israel and the European Community over the terms of the preferential trade treatment the EC has granted to exports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, starting in January.

EC sources said Israel had no objection in principle to the plan, which would put exports, mainly citrus, from the territories on an equal footing with those of Israel and Jordan. But Jerusalem has said it wants to know more about how the measures will be applied.

The European Commission is opposed to Israeli government agricultural marketing bodies becoming involved in West Bank and Gaza Strip exports, according to EC sources. They say this could be interpreted as tacit consent of Israeli rule in the territories.

The issue will probably be discussed on Monday at a meeting of the Israel-EC cooperation committee. The council will be preparing for the next meeting, scheduled for January, of the EC-Israel Cooperation Council, which is a ministerial-level panel.

Meanwhile, a revised bilateral preferential trade agreement, which was due to be initiated last week, has been held up because of technical factors surrounding last-minute Israeli demands.

"These demands are only technical problems concerning quotas of concentrated orange juice," an Israeli Embassy official in Brussels told The Jerusalem Post.

A spokeswoman for the EC Executive Commission denied there was any connection between the delay and the dispute over West Bank and Gaza exports.

## Task Force forms U.S. food-marketing concern

BY MICHAEL YUDELMAN

JERUSALEM POST REPORTER TEL AVIV. — The Operation Independence Task Force decided Tuesday in New York to establish a network with the help of leading American companies to market Israeli food products in North America, Ehud Gera, the Task Force's new director-general said at a press conference yesterday.

The as-yet-unnamed marketing company formed by the Task Force to run the project will be headed by Murray Lender, who founded the Bagel King company. Lender will also be its main investor.

The Task Force is an organization of leading Israeli and Jewish executives, most of them from the

U.S., Britain and France, who are working to help Israel reduce its trade deficit and dependence on outside aid.

The company, due to begin operating on February 1, will chiefly use the products of 10 leading Israeli food manufacturers, most of whom have already advised Lender of their intentions to join the company.

Gera said an international invest-

ment company, 20 per cent of whose capital was provided by the Cial Group and 80 per cent by Task Force members, was also formed last month to identify promising Israeli investment projects. Another investment company will help represent Israeli companies to potential investors, in an attempt to solve a problem frequently raised by American executives, namely that "Israeli

business people don't speak the same business language."

Israel's tourism industry received a severe blow from terrorism over the past year, but a leading American public relations firm is now examining an aggressive promotion campaign for tourism to Israel, Gera said. The campaign will focus on Israel's 40th anniversary celebrations.

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

## STATISTICS MARKET

## Indices:

General Share Index	122.74 -0.09%
Non-Bank Index	164.86 -0.76%
Arrangement	106.42 -0.33%
Insurance	183.50 -1.22%
Commerce, Services	202.54 -1.06%
Real Estate	203.43 -1.20%
Industrial	148.20 -0.50%
Textiles	211.07 -1.10%
Metals	160.48 -0.70%
Electronics	103.64 -0.61%
Chemicals	137.90 -0.30%
Industrial Invest.	144.35 -0.07%
Investment Cos.	167.14 -1.08%
General Bond Index	114.52 +0.04%
Index-linked Bonds	116.17 +0.04%
Fully-linked	118.17 +0.04%
Partially-linked	115.50 +0.19%
Dollar-linked Bonds	83.48 -0.03%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	112.03 +0.18%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	113.50 +0.15%
Long-term 5+ yrs	107.65 -0.17%

## Turnovers:

Shares - total	NIS 9,231,000
Arrangement	NIS 1,444,900
Non-Bank	NIS 7,786,100
Bonds - total	NIS 7,717,800
Index-linked	NIS 6,571,900
Dollar-linked	NIS 1,145,800
Treasury Bills	NIS 53,467,900

## Share Movements:

Advances	74 (184)
of which 5%+	14 (28)
"buyers only"	1 (1)
Declines	186 (577)
of which 5%+	38 (14)
"sellers only"	1 (0)
Unchanged	124 (113)
Trading Halt	35 (25)

## Bond Market Trends:

Index-linked:	Mixed to 1%
3% fully-linked:	

## 4.25% fully-linked

80% linked	Stable/mixed to 3%
Double-linked	Stable/mixed to 1%
Dollar-linked:	
Admon	Falls slightly
Elkon	Generally rises to 1%
Gilboa	Falls to 3%
For Curr.	
denominated	Stable/rises to 2%
Treasury Bills	
(annual yield)	20.00%-21.50%

## Arrangement yields:

IDB ord.	15.95%
Union 0.1	15.31%
Discount A	15.94%
Mizrahi r.	15.93%
General A	15.75%
Leumi stock	16.14%
Fin. Trade 1	15.40%

## SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

## Name Price Volume %

\* 1000NIS change

## Commercial Banks

Martime	1170	412	+2.6
General non-arr.	2280	178	+0.5
First Int'l	3480	1927	+0.3
RBI	4485	1208	-

## Commercial Banks

(part of "arrangement")			
IDB	81000	320	+0.4
Union 0.1	50000	122	-
Discount	103400	130	+1.0
Mizrahi	33350	145	+0.5
Hapoelam r	56200	867	+0.5
General A	140200	8	-0.4
Leumi 0.1	35010	1061	-
Fin. Trade	48800	-	-

## Mortgage Banks

Leumi Mort. r	7100	423	-1.3
Dev. Mort.	2290	470	-1.5
Mizrahi r	2880	568	+1.9
Tefahot r	18500	92	-1.8
Merav r	6270	101	-

## Financial Institutions

AgriC	no trading		
Ind. Dev. DD	no trading		
Cial Leasing 0.1	19700	81	+1.0

## Insurance

Aravit 0.1 r	1422	567	+1.4
Hassneh r	330	38159	-2.7
Phoenix 0.1	735	6134	-3.9
Hemshar	7000	25	-
Menorah 1	2275	170	+1.1
Sahar r	6800	170	+0.3
Zion Hold. 1	8830	3	-2.3

## Trade &amp; Services

Melir Ezra	1270	1723	-3.1
Supersol 2	7350	1314	-
Delek r	3398	2383	-0.6
Lightage	14700	26	-0.7
Cold Storage	2200	65	-0.0
Dan Hotels	1670	713	-1.8
Yarden Hotel	2920	67	-1.0
Hilon 1	23447	42	-10.0
Team 1	2000	4779	+2.6

## Real Estate, Building and

Agriculture			
Azoric	840	5037	-
Elon	570	8058	-1.7
Africa Int. 0.1	38080	115	+0.3
Danrinc	4434	401	-0.2
Prop. & Bldg.	3270	3044	-0.5
Bayside 0.1	4605	430	-
ILDC r	60880	75	-
Rasor r	7500	211	-30.3
Mehadrin	8048	-	-
Hadarim	1370	3359	-0.9

## Industries

Dubek b	3905	1513	-
PV-Ze 1	no trading		
Sunfront	12150	154	-4.2
Elite	18040	892	-
Argam r	545	2440	+0.9
Argam r	17000	110	-2.3
Delta G 1	3037	1051	-1.9
Maquette 1	5220	833	-
Eagle 1	13600	44	-2.9
Polget	3757	480	-0.3
Schellierina	15000	48	+0.1
Rogodon	2900	1594	-1.7
Unilon 0.1 r	7800	228	-0.6
Is. Can. Co. 1	2580	1103	-2.7
Zion Cables	2268	500	-
Packer Steel	13895	617	-
Elbit	392000	14	-1.0

## Elron 311000 12 -1.3

Avi	32350	65	-
Cial Electronics	2095	2532	-
Spectronix 1	2050	1396	-
T.A.T. 1	4653	228	+1.0
Akerstein 1	880	3813	-0.8
Agan 5	17200	80	-
Alliance A	2420	290	-3.2
Olexar	3310	300	-
Fertilizers	5100	42	-1.0
Haifa Chem.	410	9360	-1.2
Teur r	8230	1018	-
Dead Sea r	4550	1461	-
Petrochem.	587	17357	-1.5
Neca Chem.	8085	1793	-0.2
Frutacorn	13800	47	-6.1
Hadram Paper	255000	62	-0.4
Central Trade	8480	136	-0.1
Koor p	6770000	0.6	+1.0
Cial Inds.	1545	18376	-

## Investment Companies

IDB Dev. r	5110	2547	-1.0
Elkon	3380	789	-3.2
Alif 1	240	3335	-0.6
Sabalet	1500	307	-8.6
Israel Corp. 1	9810	556	+3.4
Wolfson 1 r	108800	2	-1.0
Hapoelam Inv.	6887	1045	-10.5
Leumi Invest.	no trading		
Discount Invest.	2290	6260	-0.8
Mizrahi Invest.	22304	167	+5.7
Cial 10	835	7183	-2.3
Landeco 0.1	4250	100	-2.3
Pama 0.1	11220	132	+10.0

## Oil Exploration

Paz Oil Expl.	18500	82	-
J.O.E.L.	3898	1722	-3.1

## Abbreviations:

s.o. sellers only	b buyer
b.o. buyers only	r registered

## P &amp; W sets terms for Beit Shemesh buyer

Post Economic Staff

Pratt and Whitney yesterday gave the government a one-month deadline to sell off state-owned Beit Shemesh Engines, or face the prospect of the American company's severing its link with the ailing jet engine maker.

At a meeting with Economic Affairs Minister Gad Ya'acobi and Minister without Portfolio Moshe

Arens, Pratt and Whitney Vice President Bernard Edelman said his company would maintain its association with Beit Shemesh only if it was sold to a private concern.

Israel Radio reported that Pratt and Whitney, which had invested \$10 million in Beit Shemesh, would not accept another government company as a buyer, including Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd.

## FINANCIAL DATA: ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES  
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.58% per month  
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	Last Updated	Tapas	Pekam 7-Day	Pekam 30-Day
LEUMI	3.12	7-18.00%	8-16.50%	8-18.50%
HAPOLIM	20.11	10-16.50%	11-17.50%	13-18.00%
DISCOUNT	19.11	10-16.00%	10-16.50%	14-20%
MIZRAH	1.12	8-17%	8-17.50%	6-19.50%
FIRST INTL	11.11	10-16%	11-17.10%	13-19.50%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.  
(Tapes: demand deposit paying daily interest.  
Pekam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

## PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (December 3)

MINIMUM DEP	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD (\$100,000)	5.375	5.375	5.375
STG (10,000 pounds)	9.750	9.875	9.750
DMK (100,000 marks)	3.875	3.750	3.875
SFR (50,000 francs)	3.000	3.000	3.000
YEN (3,000,000 yen)	2.875	2.875	2.875

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.



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## Why must women retire at 60?

IT IS A TRUTH almost universally acknowledged that basic concepts of morality and law are subject to change. What only yesterday was considered perfectly just need not be considered just today, or at least not entirely just. An arrangement once held to be fully consonant with the principle that all men and women are born equal and must be treated as such, may well be found to be discriminatory with the passage of time.

A case in point is the early retirement age forced on women employees in this country.

When, some decades ago, the Histadrut established it as a regular feature of collective labour agreements that women workers should retire at 60, five years earlier than men, it was viewed as a mighty blow on behalf of women's rights. The argument was that, although the sexes are legally equal, they are also different and have different needs that must be given different expression. Thus, if it was no denial of female equality to allow women paid leave after giving birth, and then an extended leave without pay as well, this was also considered to hold true for early retirement.

There was no gainsaying that women merited a special measure of protection as workers, and even the Women's Equal Rights Law, enacted in 1951, stipulated that it "shall not derogate from any provision of law protecting women as women."

Early retirement was supposed to protect women by letting them quit work more-or-less jointly with their usually somewhat older husbands.

But in recent years a large number of Israeli women have come to view many of those "protective" privileges as burdens and discrimination, and not least the rule of mandatory retirement at sixty. The realization dawned that, with an already shorter work span than men's, due to the exigencies of motherhood, women were also being robbed of five more years of often productive and satisfying employment - and of the extra income and larger pensions that went with them.

Naturally enough, it was women professionals who spearheaded the fight for the equalization of retirement age. The first group to win it were the Hadassah Medical Organization's women professors, early last year. But their court victory, due largely to their small number, did not translate into any general revolution. A similar attempt by a woman sociologist in the service of the Jewish Agency to win the right to retire at 65 has come a cropper.

Dr. Naomi Nevo, having failed to induce the seemingly sympathetic parties to the Agency's collective agreement to take practical action in her case, sought aid from the Tel Aviv Labour Court. She got nowhere. Judge Edna Gavriel ruled last November that, "consistent with the policy of Israeli courts," her court too would "not intervene in the autonomy of those concerned to determine the substance of the labour agreement between them."

On Monday Dr. Nevo's challenge to that ruling in the National Labour Court was thrown out by a vote of five to one, and with a similar explanation.

The court acknowledged that the self-denying edict against intervention in collective labour agreements allowed exceptions, as in a case where a woman employee was denied a promotion she clearly would have won if she were a man. But discrimination in setting a different retirement age for men and women was no discrimination. The proof: it is not specifically barred by existing Israeli legislation and court practice, and by existing international labour conventions.

What the court strangely ignored was recent profound re-evaluation of the concept of discrimination in western law, which has led to the widespread banning of a different retirement age for men and women in the EEC countries - and by the EEC itself - as well as in U.S. and Japan. In arguing, and rightly so, that numerous women could be injured by having their retirement put off until they reached 65, the court also ignored Dr. Nevo's alternative suggestion that retirement at that age be declared merely optional, and not mandatory, for women.

If, however, the High Court does not reverse the National Labour Court's ruling, it will remain the law of the land. It could then be made inoperative in only two ways: either by a wholesale revision of collective labour agreements, which would depend mainly on the Histadrut; or through Knesset legislation. One way or another, this should be done, and done now.

The forced retirement of women at 60 is not any special right. It has become a simple wrong.

## NIR

(Continued from Page One)

asked Israel to allow American investigators to question officials involved.

The Iranian arms imbroglio was a major subject of discussion at the meeting yesterday between Shamir and U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. But officials declined to comment further on its content.

Speaking to Israel Radio on Tuesday night, Pickering said: "I think there are at this point differing statements but they are not necessarily incompatible and we want to wait and see what the investigation produces."

Sources in Jerusalem again emphasized yesterday that the Iranian arms affair continued to be viewed by political America yesterday as an American affair. The "Israeli angle" received little mention, with Israel coming in for practical criticism, they said.

Uri Lubrani, who was Israel's last ambassador to Tehran before the overthrow of the Shah, said yesterday that he believed it was Israel's duty to search for bridges with the Iranian people, because "the day will come when our ties with them will be renewed."

Lubrani, currently coordinator of activities in Lebanon, served in Iran for six years. Speaking at the Tel Aviv University's Dayan Centre, he said: "I believe the glamour and the virility of Khomeini's revolution are dimming, and a new reality is being shaped in Iran."

He said Israel and Iran have some basic mutual interests, such as "defence against Arab hostility, which the Iranians face just as we do." He added that he envisioned diminished hatred towards Israel in Iran in the future.

## PERETZ

(Continued from Page One)

ham Shapiro yesterday told The Jerusalem Post that the chief rabbi in fact agreed with the High Court decision that it was wrong to indicate "Jew (convert)" on an identity card. "For kosher converts it's wrong to remind them that they're converts, and for the others it's wrong to say that they are Jews at all," he said.

Shapiro said that the rabbis had been unhappy with the situation before Peretz's "solution" (adding "convert" to the identity card) but that the change suggested by the Interior Minister would only have made the situation worse. As to whether Peretz should resign, Shapiro said: "He's an adult and a rabbi; he must decide. I don't give advice if I am not asked."

In any case, he added, the rabbinical courts have long felt that an identity card could not serve as evidence, be it of Jewishness, marital status, or even age. But it was the practice, he added, for rabbinical courts to call for the Interior Ministry file of any marriage candidate about whom there was a question.

Shapiro did not feel that the High Court decision was a victory for the Reform Movement in Israel. As to a statement by a Reform leader that now thousands of Reform converts would come, he said: "Why the converts? The kosher Reform Jews should come and we will welcome them."

# Arrogance & ignorance

Gerald M. Steinberg

REVELATIONS of arms sales to Iran have seriously damaged both the United States and Israel, and embarrassed their respective political leaders. In Washington, President Reagan and his National Security Council appear naive and incompetent, and the triumvirate leading the unity government in Jerusalem does not look much better.

While American involvement in this sordid endeavour may have been greater, the U.S. will no doubt recover with little long-term damage. Despite our pretensions, however, Israel is not a superpower, and the long-term effects of this international bumbling on our relations with the U.S. and with the countries in the region could be disastrous.

Nevertheless, the reaction in Washington has been much stronger than that in Jerusalem. Two members of Reagan's staff have been unceremoniously dismissed, and an independent commission of inquiry has been created. In Israel, each new bombshell from abroad is met by another hurried conference of Shamir, Peres and Rabin, who issue a cryptic statement.

It seems that we have become accustomed to periodic bumbling and incompetence and even expect it from our leaders. After all, the Israeli political system managed to sweep the Shin Bet scandal, the Pollard affair, the Vanunu fiasco, and now the image of Israel as the instigator in America's Iranian disaster all under the massive "national security" rug. In the Shin Bet case, some members of the security services were dismissed, and in the Pollard affair, Rafael Eitan was moved to the management of Israel Chemicals. A few heads may roll in the Vanunu and Iran cases as well.

THESE personnel changes, however, will not solve the underlying problems of management and control in the Israeli government. Although the decision makers responsible for the "a string of bad luck" these events all demonstrate major failures in judgment and a lack of professional capabilities and skills at the highest levels.

Eitan should never have been allowed to recruit Pollard to spy for Israel. Anyone with a basic knowledge of American politics and the sensitivities of Congress and the public, including those of Israel's major supporters, would have realized the repercussions of such an

operation. Whatever information Pollard may have supplied could not have made up for the damage to Israel's image in the long term.

Similarly, the Iranian arms sales operations demonstrate a high degree of high-level incompetence. Aside from the moral and political implications for Israel which make such dealings with the mullahs very questionable, the links with the U.S. are again the central issue. In the U.S., Israel now appears to play the part of the cunning agent provocateur, leading the innocent but well-intentioned Reagan administration into the Iranian morass. These actions were in violation of U.S. law and of the clear will of Congress, and here again, the long-term damage to Israel is incalculable. Even if those Americans who are still sympathetic to Israel can be convinced that Israel did not know of the illegal transfer of funds to the Contras, the image of a dangerous adventurer remains.

In Washington, the Iranian affair is likely to result in a thorough housecleaning and administrative reform. To prevent further naive bumbling, the National Security Council's ability to run such furtive operations will be restricted, and the State Department's role strengthened. Other forms of checks and balances, including Congressional oversight, will also be reinforced.

However, if the past is any guide, nothing of the sort will happen in Jerusalem. As long as the administrative chaos and free-for-all which marks policy in critical areas such as relations with the U.S. and the related issue of arms sales are not subject to fundamental reform, such disasters will recur.

INSTITUTIONAL reform must begin by accepting the need for a system of formal procedures and oversight. As many critics of the unity government have noted, the leadership operates without even a minimal level of external review. The Knesset, even in the best of times, is largely impotent, and its committees are understaffed and peripheral. In many domestic issues, countervailing political and other forces can act to check government policy, preventing hasty and ill-considered policy decisions. The sensitivity of national security issues, however, has allowed the govern-

ment to take decisions largely in secret, in many cases, without the knowledge of even the cabinet. Many such decisions are taken informally, and left to shadowy agents to interpret and carry out. The formal instruments of government are largely excluded, and supervision is impossible. This process, in and of itself, is a source of weakness and leads to ill-conceived government policy.

These problems are enhanced by the well-known combination of Israeli arrogance and ignorance. The American political system, for example, is highly complex, and the subtleties and nuances are often difficult to comprehend. For some, this complexity serves as a warning to proceed cautiously and seek the advice of experts. But many Israelis assume that somehow they have a unique insight and can dispense with professionals.

During his stint as ambassador to the United States during the War of Attrition, Yitzhak Rabin, with almost no diplomatic experience, thought he understood the U.S. well enough to ignore warnings regarding Israeli action and independently interpret signals and hints. Assuming he understood the U.S. better than the Americans themselves, his conclusions regarding U.S. attitudes were incorrect.

In 1982, U.S. secretary of state Alexander Haig may have signalled some form of approval for a Lebanese incursion, but Haig's clear isolation and lack of support in the Reagan administration was not recognized by the Israeli government. In the Pollard case and Iranian arms deal, it is also quite clear that those Israelis who made decisions dispensed with professional assessments of the risks involved.

Together, this combination of wilful ignorance and independent decision-making is extremely dangerous, as has been seen in recent foreign policy disasters. Only a thorough institutional reform, barring even top political leaders from taking decisions independently and without benefit of competent advice and oversight, will reduce the number of such incidents. Such institutional reform will not put an end to officials' lack of foresight, and some mistakes must still be expected, but at least there will be a longer period to recover between follies.

The writer is a member of the political science departments at Hebrew University and Bar Ilan University.

## READERS' LETTERS

### SPINOZA SOCIETY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - For those of us working to promote Spinoza's studies in Israel as a way of bringing this great philosopher back to his people, Michael Finkel's letter (of November 20) came as a pleasant and welcome, if somewhat uninformed, encouragement.

Actually, a Spinoza Institute is now being set up in Jerusalem. It will work together with the Hebrew University's own Spinoza Research Programme (inaugurated two years ago in the presence of representatives of the Dutch and French Spinoza societies), in conducting the Jeru-

salem International Spinoza Symposium series of bi-annual conferences planned until the year 2000.

The first event in this series, in which a group of leading scholars worldwide will participate, will take place this April 1-6, in conjunction with The Jerusalem International Book and Mishkenot Sha'ananim.

Mr. Finkel and everyone interested in this new institute's work are invited to write for further information to the Spinoza Institute in Mishkenot Sha'ananim, P.O.B. 8215, Jerusalem 91081.

Professor YIRMIYAHU YOVEL  
Jerusalem.

### SHAME ON US

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - We Jews have heard it in Latin, Provençal, langue d'Oc in Norman English, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian, Romanian and German: "Death to the Jews! Kill them!"

Now, when, for once, we are the majority, we want to have a go at it: "Death to the Arabs! Kill them!"

It cannot happen here? But it is already happening.

And just as in Germany and Austria, when brown-shirted thugs rampaged through the streets, burning and breaking and looting, our clergy and our burghers look the other way; they don't want to see;

they don't want to hear.

And when the time comes and the mob's leaders face their judges - hopefully before a Jewish court - and witnesses are called, then the rabbis and all the well-meaning burghers will say: "We did not know, we have seen nothing. The Arabs probably had it coming to them."

As for me, I do not want to feel ashamed of being a Jew in Israel. Therefore, I publicly dissociate myself from the silent chief rabbis and the not-so-silent rabble-rousers, the Peretztes, the Levingers, and the Kahanes. We don't belong to the same people!

BERTHOLD WYLER  
Jerusalem.

### SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - Israel is everywhere. The accusation that Israel is helping anti-government rebels in Mozambique, based on a report that a body wearing the Star of David was found among dead MNR guerrillas, appeared recently in a British paper, as reported by you on November 30.

This is just one shot in a salvo of exaggerations and misinformation levelled recently at Israel by the international media.

Medium-size consignments of arms from Israel to Iran make front-page headlines. Massive shipments of weaponry worth billions of dollars

sent to Iran by China, South Korea and even the Soviet Union despite its treaty commitment in Iraq, are hardly mentioned.

The eagle eye of the newsman can spot Israeli alleged involvements in countries as far as Nicaragua and Sri Lanka, yet fails to see 50 ships anchored in nearby Akaba harbour with loads of arms for Iraq.

One is led to believe that the arm of the small Mossad is longer and stretches further than that of the mighty KGB or the CIA.

ELIYAHU TAL  
Tel Aviv.

### THE DEMJANJUK DEFENCE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - Although Ernie Meyer's articles on the Demjanjuk case have been balanced and professional, his report of November 18 requires brief comment. I refer to his observation that the defence lawyer "has still not found an Israeli lawyer to his liking to assist him."

It may be of interest in this regard that after numerous discussions with fellow members of the Israel Bar, I have come to appreciate the plight of my Israeli colleagues in this matter. To associate with the Demjanjuk defence means weeks or months of intensive pre-trial preparation, followed by lengthy court sessions. It means the possibility of having to cross-examine elderly survivor witnesses about their Holocaust experiences.

It means the loss of clients, present and future. It means that the advocate and his family might be in physical danger. At the very least, it means that the doors of the Israeli advocate's office will be closed virtually for months with resultant loss of income.

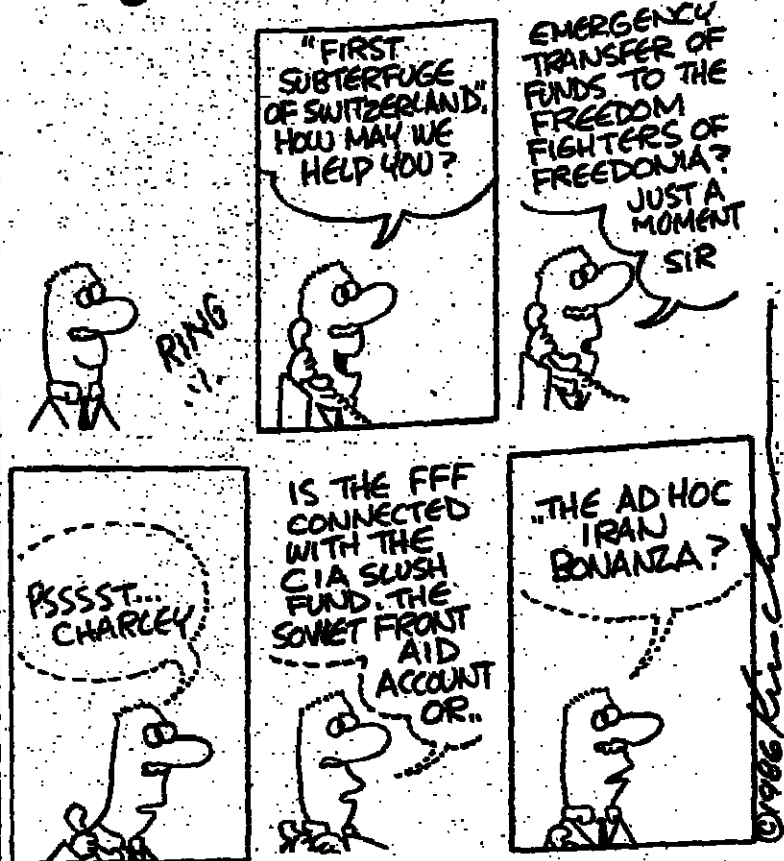
Those Israeli lawyers who have considered taking on these hardships and uncertainties insist that they are entitled to substantial compensation of at least \$250,000 or more, and rightly so. Idealism, no matter how lofty, doesn't pay the electric bills.

On the other hand, the Justice Ministry of Israel and the court have ruled that substantial financial support is not available in this case. The Demjanjuk family is completely destitute and financial assistance from supporters in the United States has not been forthcoming.

Therefore, the fact that I have not yet found an Israeli attorney does not imply that the outstanding lawyers I have consulted with in Israel are not to my liking. On the contrary, they have my complete respect and grateful friendship for even considering an association with me in this emotionally charged litigation.

MARK J. O'CONNOR  
Jerusalem.

## Dry Bones



## A credit risk

J. Voet

THE WORLD of the plastic credit card is expanding by leaps and bounds. It is estimated that nearly 250 million people use this handy little payment device. Worldwide, there are 132 million Visa cards in the hands of the public. Eurocard is second with 90 million users. The smaller companies in this card game, American Express and Diners Club, have respectively 19 million and 5 million customers.

The number of enterprises accepting the card instead of hard cash is also in seven figures, with about one million companies working with American Express and Diners Club. The two giants count more than four million firms each as their customers. One cannot, of course, add up these figures as one firm may, and often does, honour cards of all four credit card companies, and perhaps also a few of the smaller credit businesses operating in this field.

To succeed so rapidly, the credit card must not only be handy and practical, but it must fulfil a real need. In some countries it has become nearly a necessity of life.

customer has been negligent in reporting the loss, may it refuse to reimburse the customer. Usually the credit card company bears the brunt of the losses. The shop selling the goods is always paid, except in cases where the clerk failed to check the blacklist. Then, it must accept the loss.

MORE complicated credit card frauds often originate in the department of the organizations dispatching the cards. Unused cards without a signature have a high price. The unreliable staff member who drops such a card "by mistake" in the post office box of a credit card dealer can expect to be paid nicely for his "service."

Dealers in lost or stolen credit cards usually keep contact with people who are in a position to find the cards, for example, attendants at fuel stations, or dishonest employees in police lost and found departments. Theoretically every item delivered at these offices has to be entered in books. In practice this is not always done.

THESE are all drawbacks of the credit card system. In exceptional cases, other disadvantages of the plastic card payment system may become apparent. During the Lebanon war, many young computer experts were sent to the front. As a result, invoicing in Israel by computers was thrown out of kilter. Debiting customer accounts was held up and took many months to catch up again. With inflation running high, the credit card companies lost a great deal of money.

The risks being so great, it is small wonder that the companies are fighting back in an effort to limit thefts to bearable proportions. In order to eliminate theft of new cards, delivery has in many cases been taken out of the hands of the postal service and entrusted to banks. Special investigation squads have been set up to deal with credit card dealers. Nevertheless, illegal use of credit cards continues on a grand scale.

The card holder who discovers that his credit card is no longer in his possession must notify his bank or the company immediately. The card is then blocked and the outlets are informed that the card number is no longer valid.

Those lists of stolen or lost cards are usually sent by mail and may take some time before they reach the shops.

Meantime, the illegal holder of the card can make purchases. They are automatically debited to the account of the legal holder. However, if he can prove that someone else has made unauthorized use of his credit card, he is reimbursed. By contract, his risk originating from illegal use is limited to a relatively modest amount. Only if the company can prove that the credit card

The card holder's signature has proved to be no protection against illegal use. It can be too easily forged. If the birthdate of the legal owner were put on the card, it would at least limit illegal use to persons of about the same age. An additional safeguard would be to add a small photo of the owner. But apparently this was thought to be too complicated.

Whatever devices are used, credit cards create possibilities of easy thefts.

The writer is a commentator on economic affairs.

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